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Debate promised on single currency

Clarke takes the steam out of Euro row

By PHILIP WEBSTER, POLITICAL EDITOR

KENNETH CLARKE bought the Government time over Europe yesterday when he told MPs that he would seek copper-bottomed guarantees that Brussels would not interfere in the British economy if it did not join a single currency.

The Chancellor also promised that no binding political decisions would be taken by finance ministers meeting in Dublin on Monday, and that the Commons would hold an extended debate on the new currency next month.

His pledges, issued during a tense session in the Commons, appeared to take the steam out of a row that had threatened to overshadow his Budget today.

Eurosceptics had accused ministers of stifling debate over regulations which they fear could mean Britain being subjected to Brussels disciplines — including fines for running excessive budget deficits — even if it did not take part in monetary union.

Asked by John Redwood to ensure that the regulations included a declaration that such sanctions would not apply, the Chancellor promised to seek the "best possible text" that put any doubts to rest. "I agree it has to be seen



"Gerald's had a tip-off that blanmange is going up"

to be copper-bottomed, or as copper-bottomed as we can get it."

As he spoke, John Major was seeing leaders of the 1922 Committee, whose chairman, Sir Marcus Fox, voiced MPs' concerns about ministers' handling of the affair.

The Chancellor made plain that at Dublin he would be arguing for changes in the "stability pact" — the rules governing the economic performance of single currency countries.

He said: "I have been arguing throughout that the fines should not be excessive. We do not want BSE-crisis type financial obligations imposed on countries already struggling to cope with excessive deficits, and procedures should be reasonably flexible and should at all times be under the control of the council of Ministers."

Mr Clarke, who attacked recent "highly misleading" press reports, also announced that he was releasing some confidential documents to show that he was serious about welcoming the opportunity for a full and informed debate. "Whether we are in or out of EMU, my concern is and will remain to respect the position and traditions of this Parliament and our independent nation state," he said.

He was helped by his predecessor, Norman Lamont, who agreed that plans for a German-sponsored "stability pact" imposing fines on EMU members with big budget deficits would not bind Britain. Mr Lamont added, however, that if Britain did join — as Mr Clarke wanted — the

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Kinnock becomes the prime suspect

By ANDREW PIERCE, POLITICAL CORRESPONDENT

KENNETH CLARKE indicated in the Commons that he suspected that Neil Kinnock was behind the leaking of a confidential Treasury document which fuelled the latest Tory row over the single currency.

The document was produced specifically for Mr Kinnock and Sir Leon Brittan, the two British EU Commissioners, at the personal direction of Mr Clarke. It was subsequently leaked to *The Sunday Times*. Only four copies were sent to Brussels — one each for the commissioners and a copy for their respective Chefs de Cabinets.

The Chancellor left few MPs in any doubt about the result of the swiftest Whitehall mole inquiry in recent times when he suggested he would not be able to pass on any more sensitive document to Mr

Kinnock, the former Labour leader who is now Transport Commissioner.

Aides of Mr Kinnock denied the accusation. Philip Lowe, the Chef de Cabinet to Mr Kinnock, said: "It is not true. Neil Kinnock never even saw the document. Nor did I."

But as Treasury officials raged over the breach of confidence, it emerged that they had not marked the paper private or confidential. "It went to all sorts of people in Brussels," said one EU official. "They were lying around all over the place."

Mr Clarke told the Commons that he suspected that Gordon Brown, the Shadow Chancellor, was also involved. "The fact that Mr Brown was waving it about and has revealed it makes me think that Sir Leon Brittan is probably in the clear," he said.

Markets surge

Financial markets were in a buoyant mood ahead of the Budget with the FTSE 100 up 35.9 at 4054.6
Page 25

Surgeons' president attacks advertising by consultants

By JEREMY LAURANCE, HEALTH CORRESPONDENT

Rodney says in a letter to *The Times*

The GMC's decision to allow advertising by consultants, taken at a meeting on November 5, was prompted by the recognition that increasing numbers of specialists were flouting the existing guidelines by including details of their services in Yellow Pages.

A briefing for the council said that this flouting of the guidelines was now so common that the GMC did not have the resources to take action against the culprits.

Sir Rodney said yesterday: "I think that is a terrible admission. You have the

GMC — the controller of us all — saying that although the guidance is being breached they haven't got the resources to deal with it. That is unbearable. It is pathetic.

If you have a regulatory body issuing guidelines that it hasn't got the resources to monitor, there is something fundamentally wrong."

Sir Donald Irvine, president of the GMC and a former GP, said last night that the council wanted patients to have the best information about specialist care while protecting them from exploitation.

Letters, page 17

Divers are sent to retrieve jet victims

FROM INIGO GILMORE ON REUNION

A SPECIALIST diving team was flown to the Comoros Islands yesterday night to retrieve the remaining bodies from the wreckage of the hijacked Ethiopian Airlines Boeing 767 that crashed on Saturday.

Last night the rescuers were checking reports that a six-month-old baby had been found alive after being washed up on a beach more than a mile from the wreckage. The baby was said to be in a cushioned baby-bed and its parents were also reported to have survived.

Comoran rescue workers used hand-held chainsaws and hacksaws in a bid to

Before the crash, page 6

British drivers mount their own blockade in Calais

By BEN MACINTYRE IN PARIS AND BILL FROST

BRITISH lorry drivers trapped in Calais by their striking French counterparts lost patience yesterday and mounted a counter-blockade, insisting that no tourist traffic would be allowed to move through the port until the French drivers allowed them to leave.

As the bitter dispute between French lorry drivers and hauliers over pay and working conditions entered its eighth day, the strikers intensified their protest by blockading the ports of Calais and Boulogne, stopping trucks from crossing the Franco-German border and setting up lorry-barricades on more than 160 major roads across the country.

Many British drivers and small haulage companies say they are being ruined by the dispute as cargoes are left to rot in stranded lorries. Sir George Young, the Transport Secretary, pledged government action to ensure compensation claims are quickly dealt with by the French authorities.

The Freight Transport Association wrote to John Major demanding that he intervene personally to end "this wholly unlawful behaviour" by the French. A spokesman estimated that the dispute had cost British hauliers £3 million.

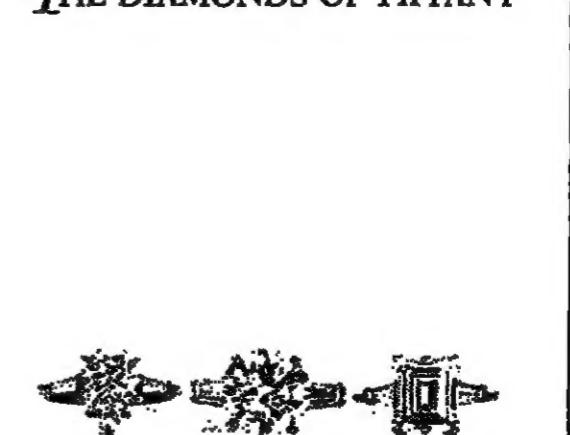
A German truck driver was seriously injured when his lorry was stoned near the eastern town of Chalon-sur-Saone and he had to undergo emergency surgery. The owner-driver, from the Stuttgart area, was hit on the head as he drove towards a roadblock being set up by strikers. He managed to stop his truck on the hard shoulder and summon assistance. Four men are being questioned.

Some British drivers left their cabs to join the ranks of the French demonstrators while others headed to Belgian ports in an attempt to cross the Channel, only to run into new blockades at the Belgian border.

In a spirit of *entente cordiale*, French drivers invited their British colleagues to cross their picket line and join in a buffet of bread, ham and beer last night in the 100-yard gap between the French and British blockades at Calais.

Fuel crisis grows, page 10

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Inflating chancellor squeaks out of tight spot

Ecognate fizzled out yesterday afternoon. As so often happens at widely billed Commons occasions, by the time MPs had gathered for the storm, the clouds had blown away.

"I have been brought to this House," said Kenneth Clarke, "by weekend newspaper reports, some of whose contents bore not the faintest resemblance to reality."

Nothing could have been further from the truth. It was loyal Government backbenchers who had been whipped in by the Sunday newspapers. Tory MPs were concerned that, if the position really was as critical as the Government's survival as the press said, they had better come

along and support it. One by one, the Cabinet's friends stood up. Tom King (Bridgwater), a sort of Sir Buffon Tufton with Privy Council knobs on, weighed in helpfully at the outset. Sir Terence Higgins (Worthing), a thinking-man's Sir Buffon, brought praise for Mr Clarke. Tim Renton (Sussex Mid), a culture-lover's Sir Buffon, was sure Clarke was right. David Hunt (Wirral W) and John Butterill (Bournemouth W), there when you need them, had supportive words for the Chancellor.

And that was just the Tories. The Chancellor seems to have friends among the Opposition too: Labour's Giles Radice (Durham N) echoed his views,

MATTHEW PARRIS
POLITICAL SKETCH

while Kevin McNamara (Kingston upon Hull N) was far from hostile. Interestingly, Clarke's shadow, Gordon Brown, put in a slightly awkward performance — perhaps aware that he faced the same criticisms from his own backbenchers as the Chancellor did from his. Dennis Skinner (Bolsover), Peter Shore (Bentham Green & Stepney) and Tony Benn (Chesterfield) — then proved it. They hardly drew blood, being by implication as critical of their own front bench as of the Govern-

ment's. There was another respect in which the press had saved Mr Clarke. So ominous had been the weekend cries of "foul" and "offside" that it was not difficult for a politician of Clarke's abilities to persuade MPs that the case had been wildly overstated. In particular, he was able to dismiss with force the argument that Parliament could direct his negotiating strategy before the event, rather than assess its fruits which, he said, would be only a draft agreement.

But the key to Clarke's

survival yesterday lay in the way potential troublemakers pulled their punches. Once Norman Lamont had inquired rather than attacked, John Redwood had asked for an assurance he was able to give, and Bill Cash had huffed and puffed — but no more — we knew the Chancellor was safe.

And, like any accomplished street magician, Kenneth Clarke had a clever distraction ready. With, without direct accusation, but with a willingness to strike which lies always beneath the surface with Mr Clarke, the Chancellor started a new hare running yesterday, for MPs and for the press. Did Neil Kinnock leak the offending document or

didn't he? "Ooooh!" squealed MPs, as Clarke told us that two men, Sir Leon Brittan and Neil Kinnock, had the papers — and it wasn't Sir Leon who dunnit.

Fatter by the day as his predecessor Lord Lawson grows thinner, Kenneth Clarke has become a weightwatcher's portrait of Dorian Grey. Throughout, he adopted that air of exasperated rationality which he has made his trademark, every third word emphasised beyond any weight it could possibly bear, and every sentence ending on a sort of breathless squeak. For him, the whole afternoon was a breathless squeak. Mr Clarke squeaked through.

SHIRLEY MORRIS

Whitehall hotel plan 'is gift to terrorists'

By ARTHUR LEATHLEY, POLITICAL CORRESPONDENT

A SCHEME to convert a former Treasury building overlooking Whitehall into an hotel came under fierce criticism last night from MPs worried about the threat of terrorism.

Ministers are close to completing a £200 million deal which will allow the building on the corner of Parliament Square to be taken over by Exchequer Partnership, a private company. A third of it is to be leased back by the Government.

Sir Terence Burns, the Treasury Permanent Secretary, confirmed that the company planned to turn the front of the building, overlooking the Houses of Parliament, and the back rooms of the former

offices, overlooking St James's Park, into hotel accommodation.

MPs immediately accused senior civil servants of failing to check the security implications of allowing a hotel to overlook Parliament and a route frequently used by the Royal Family. Diane Abbott, a Labour MP, accused Sir Terence of ignoring the dangers of allowing a hotel "within a mortar bomb's throw of Downing Street".

She claimed that there would be serious dangers with cars left in an area in which parking is prohibited: "If I were an IRA terrorist, the first thing I would do is book a permanent suite," she said.

Other MPs on the Treasury Select Committee also questioned Sir Terence over the security advice he had been given. Sir Terence insisted: "We have consulted people with responsibility for security and they have raised no objections."

He admitted that his department could not prevent the conversion. "It is essentially a matter for Exchequer," he said.

He said that any plans for hotel accommodation would need planning permission, although the local authority would not have responsibility for security matters.

The Grade II listed building would become one of the foremost residential, hotel and private office sites in London if permission is secured. The refurbishment, which would be completed by 2001, is the biggest project under the Pri-



The Treasury building overlooking Parliament. "If I were a terrorist, I would book in at once" said one MP.

vate Finance Initiative to involve a government building. Sir Terence defended the Government against accusations that only one tender was formally considered, after the only rival company failed to meet a deadline.

Labour MPs warned that taxpayers could have lost money through the absence of a competitive bid. Sir Terence insisted that the correct procedures had been followed, although he admitted that he would have preferred additional competition. Although

4 firms originally expressed an interest in taking on the Treasury building, four of the eight short-listed candidates were quickly found to be unsuitable. Of the four, two dropped out of the bidding process before fee bids were sought and the only rival to Exchequer failed to meet the deadline by hours.

Sir Terence refused to answer questions about the detailed cost of the new contract, insisting that it should remain confidential until the deal is finally completed, which will

probably be early next year. Sir Terence admitted that the costs to the Treasury of renting the new office accommodation would be higher than the current £25 million, but denied reports that it would be as high as £15 million.

However, he said the higher costs were due to the private company taking on responsibility for maintenance and other services. Ministers decided to allow the private sector to take on the running of the Treasury building after being told that it required £57 million of repair work.

□ **Betty Boothroyd**, the Speaker of the House of Commons, was last night urged to investigate and report on the effect privatisation of HM Stationery Office has had on the production of *Hansard*, the daily parliamentary bulletin. Derek Foster Labour's public service spokesman, last night wrote to the Speaker following news that the Stationery Office which was sold to Electric Fleming last month was seeking 950 redundancies out of the 2,500 workforce.

Sir Terence said security bodies had not objected.

SCENTS OF WONDER.



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Kents mourn as Army nephew dies in crash

By MICHAEL EVANS

A NEPHEW of the Duke and Duchess of Kent died with a fellow Army officer yesterday in a car accident in Germany. Lieutenant Richard Worsley was travelling with Lieutenant Sebastian Partington on the way to their Light Dragoons base near Hanover in the early hours of the morning when their car hit a tree on a notoriously dangerous road in a training area. Both men had served with distinction in Bosnia.

Lieutenant Worsley's 69-year-old father, Oliver, is the brother of the Duchess of Kent, and his mother was formerly Penelope Fuller of the brewery family in London. Mr Worsley was given the news as he flew home from visiting relatives in Canada.

A friend of the family, who live in Heslington, near York, said: "Richard lived for the Army. He packed a lot in to his few years. His parents, brother and sisters are finding it

difficult to come to terms with the tragedy." Major Marcus Browell, second-in-command of the Light Dragoons, who have been repeatedly deployed to Bosnia in a reconnaissance role, said last night: "The Light Dragoons mourn the loss of the two excellent officers at the beginning of promising careers. They were popular with the soldiers and officers alike."

Lieutenant Worsley served in Bosnia from September last year to February this year. He is understood to have been awarded two service medals for his time there, because his service overlapped the period between the force commanded by the United Nations and the subsequent Nato-led Implementation Force. He was due to be deployed with his regiment to Northern Ireland in January.

Lieutenant Worsley was born 11 years after the royal wedding in York Minster between his aunt, Katherine Worsley and the Duke of Kent. He was educated at Brancott preparatory school in Scarborough and at Uppingham public school, and joined the Light Dragoons in August 1994 after attending Sandhurst. He was third of four children. Another uncle, Sir Marcus Worsley, 5th baronet, was deputy chairman of the National Trust, and was a Conservative MP in Keighley and in Chelsea.

Continued from page 1
fines and scrutiny would apply and "this House is entitled to debate the level of the fines, the flexibility and inflexibility of the system. That has not been debated adequately until this afternoon. If it had been, this needless row would have been avoided," he said.

Mr Redwood described Mr Clarke's promise as "a good day's work", adding: "I am delighted that the Chancellor is going to seek a more copper-bottomed text as there are still

real worries that more control will be taken over the British economy if these regulations go through unamended."

Other sceptics, however, reserved judgment. John Townend, chairman of the 92 Group of rightwing Tories, said that he was suspicious of Europe and that opt-outs were not guarantees. Britain had won an opt-out from the social chapter of the Maastricht Treaty, but the 48-hour maximum working week was still being imposed through the courts, he said. "We're no

further on. The Government is still saying it's keeping its options open."

Bill Cash, however, said that a few days ago backbenchers were not getting the scrutiny of European business that they had been promised. "We've now had a statement, and we are also now going to have a debate. We got progress."

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Clarke defuses Euro row

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PM backs England to host World Cup

John Major pledged his personal support to Glenn Hoddle, the England manager, last night for plans to bring the World Cup to England in 2006 on the fortieth anniversary of the Wembley triumph over West Germany. The commitment came after an hour of talks at Downing Street between the Prime Minister and a delegation from the Football Association, led by Mr Hoddle.

Further detailed talks will be held with the Government within the next two weeks. But Mr Major's support will be an important boost for the FA, which is facing competition from Germany to stage the championships, who last hosted it in 1974. Mr Major has agreed to demonstrate his support for the FA bid by holding a Downing Street reception ahead of next February's World Cup qualifying match against Italy. Mr Major, an avid football fan, occasionally watches Chelsea which was managed by Mr Hoddle until he was given the England post earlier this year.

Graham Kelly, the chief executive of the FA who was part of the delegation, said: "I am very happy that the Prime Minister has indicated that he is very keen and will strongly support the bid in principle."

Fayed costs hit £54,000

A government legal bill of nearly £54,000 as a result of the appeal by the Fayed brothers over their applications for British citizenship was disclosed by the Home Office. Defending the Home Secretary's decision to deny citizenship to the Egyptian-born brothers cost £53,915 up to October 28. Final costs of the case will be higher.

Hospital 'cone' criticised

An NHS hospital facing spending cuts and possible job losses has been criticised for plans to erect a revolving neon cone outside its main entrance. The multi-coloured 25ft cone is to be placed on a hillside overlooking St Mary's Hospital, Newport, Isle of Wight. The £55,000 cost is being met by the National Lottery and private funding.

Organ scholar injured

An organ scholar at Trinity College, Cambridge, is on a life-support machine in Addenbrooke's Hospital after hitting his head in an accident after a party. Tom Blunt, 19, fell as he tried to climb out of the fountain in Great Court. He underwent emergency brain surgery to try to stem internal bleeding.

Disneyland boy dies

A teenager who helped to spearhead a muscular dystrophy research campaign has died on the flight home from a holiday in Disneyland. Tom Willett, 14, was the last of three brothers to succumb to a rare form of the disease. He had been taken to Florida by the charity Cloud Nine and died an hour before the plane landed at Gatwick.

Spitfire for Glasgow

Michael Portillo, the Defence Secretary, has announced plans to transfer a Spitfire to the City of Glasgow Museums to mark the part played by Scottish squadrons during the Second World War. At the Scottish Grand Committee in Capar, Fife, Mr Portillo praised the "valiant acts" by 602 City of Glasgow and 603 City of Edinburgh squadrons.

Reynolds cuts costs

Albert Reynolds, the former Irish Prime Minister, will not have to pay all the estimated £1 million costs of his libel action against *The Sunday Times*. Mr Justice French held that the paper's defence of qualified privilege was not justified, so Mr Reynolds should not pay costs incurred by the paper before it paid a £5,000 settlement offer into court.

Peak District rescue

Two boys who disappeared overnight in blizzard conditions in the Peak District were found safe yesterday after one walked ten miles through snow. Philip McKernan, 13, was found collapsed by the ASRT. James Forde, 15, had camped in a snowhole. In Snowdonia, six scouts and their leaders trapped for 24 hours were airlifted to safety.

Medieval priory found

Archaeologists have uncovered the remains of a rare 13th-century priory inside St Werburgh's at Warburton near Altrincham in Cheshire, a church thought to date from the 16th century. Manchester University researchers stumbled across the priory of the ascetic Premonstratensian order while examining the interior of the Grade II listed church.

Soccer miss-match

A ten-year-old footballer missed a chance of joining Leeds United when the club discovered the player was a girl. Delena Morton, from Chapeltown, Leeds, was spotted at a training session. It was only when an invitation was sent to attend a trial that officials learned the truth. A club official said: "She was very good — like one of the lads."

Desert island windfall

The little-known Cambridge duo Ero, whose album track *Cancel Today* was chosen by Tony Blair as one of his desert island discs, are enjoying an unaccustomed burst of interest. Record company executives were queuing up for the signatures of Ero, Lamei and Mark Powell. "If I wasn't a Labour voter before, I certainly am now," Mr Lamei said.

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Forecast of 4.4m new homes in next 20 years

Gummer urged to stem the tide of urban sprawl

By NICK NUTTALL
ENVIRONMENT CORRESPONDENT

MORE THAN 14,000 acres of rural Cambridgeshire could disappear under new housing by 2016 unless more development is redirected towards the inner cities and derelict land, according to an official report for the Department of the Environment.

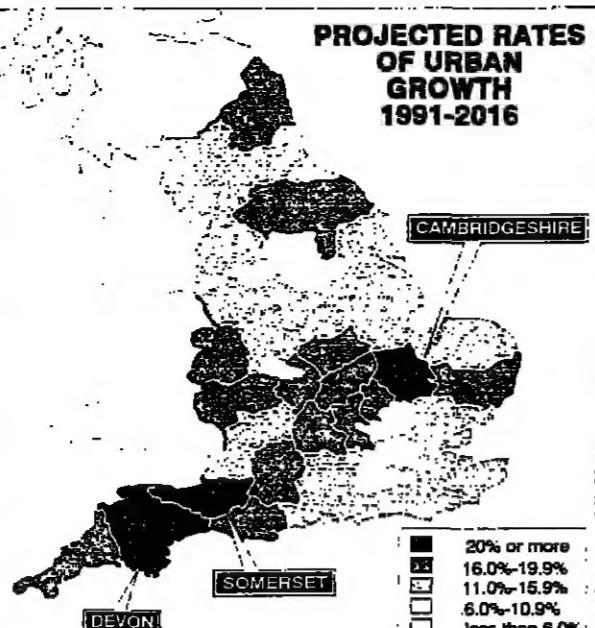
Devon, Somerset, Cornwall, Dorset and North Yorkshire would also suffer increasing rates of urban sprawl over the next 20 years as accommodation will be needed for 4.4 million new households. John Gummer, the Environment Secretary, responded to growing alarm in the countryside by promising to raise the Government's target for redirecting development towards the inner cities.

The Government has been working towards a target of 50 per cent of new housing being built on derelict or abandoned urban land. Mr Gummer promised yesterday to raise that figure to 60 per cent.

Issuing the Green Paper *Household Growth: Where Shall We Live?*, he said: "The possible 4.4 million households that might be formed is almost one million more than is currently being planned for. The increase would affect every part of England. We have, of course, made projections before. But over the past ten years they have always been underestimates."

His pledge is not legally binding and pressure groups have urged him of underplaying the seriousness of the urbanisation threat. The Council for the Protection of Rural England had hoped to see a target of 70 per cent, or more than three million homes, being redirected into urban areas.

Tony Burton, the group's head of planning and natural resources, said that, even if the 60 per cent target was met, the number of new houses



Rates of urban sprawl:	
Avon 12.8 per cent	Bedfordshire 16.6%
Berkshire 13.0%	Buckinghamshire 17.2%
Birmingham 21%	Cheshire 14.2%
Cleveland 6.6%	Cornwall 19.4%
Cumbria 12%	Dorset 12.9%
Devon 20.7%	Dorset 19.2%
Durham 14.6%	Essex 13.8%
East Sussex 13.8%	Gloucestershire 13.1%
East 15.1%	Hertfordshire 17.1%
Hampshire 13.1%	Hereford and Worcester 17.1%
Humberside 9%	Leicester 12.7%
Isle of Wight 0.5%	Lancashire 14.9%
Kent 12.6%	Leicester 9.9%

being built in the countryside would be double East Anglia's existing housing stock and the equivalent of ten cities the size of Bristol.

It is a disappointingly cautious approach, given the startling new evidence of the threat to rural England from new housing development," he said. "The prospect of large areas of countryside disappearing demands a more robust policy." The group called on Mr Gummer to issue planning rules requiring councils to reuse urban land

before building on rural sites.

A report by Peter Bibby, of Sheffield University, and John Shepherd, of Birbeck College, London, for the Department of the Environment, says that the increase in the rate of urban sprawl in Cambridgeshire would be 21.3 per cent if present trends continued. The increase in Devon and Somerset would be between 20.7 per cent and 20.8 per cent.

Cornwall faces a 19.4 per cent increase, Dorset 19.2 per cent and North Yorkshire by

and buildings before looking at rural sites.

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Cornwall faces a 19.4 per cent increase, Dorset 19.2 per cent and North Yorkshire by

19.1 per cent. Hampshire and Greater London are forecast to accommodate more than 160,000 new households by 2016, followed by Kent, Essex and Cambridgeshire, with between 120,000 and 160,000.

The study says: "Relatively high rates of urban growth are projected for a continuous area stretching from Cornwall and Devon through Somerset, Dorset, Wiltshire, Oxfordshire and Buckinghamshire to Northamptonshire, Leicestershire, Cambridgeshire and Suffolk."

The main area of relatively high rate of projected urban growth also extends westwards in an area from Warwickshire through Hereford and Worcester to Shropshire. Relatively high increases are also projected for North Yorkshire and Northumberland.

The rise in new households is projected to come from increasing family breakdowns and rises in the number of single people and the elderly. Mr Gummer urged all interested parties to join a four-month debate to find the least environmentally damaging ways of accommodating this.

Tony Struthers, of the Royal Town Planning Institute, said that trying to put more housing into cities might cause more harm than good. "We must not recreate the mistakes of the 1960s, where people were crammed into hastily and badly developed buildings. We do not want to build on the remaining green urban spaces, such as playing fields and parks."

He said the 60 per cent target figure was unreasonable and might be impractical without more spending on housing associations and infrastructure. He also said that much of the vacant inner-city and former industrial land was too contaminated for building. Developers could be liable for prosecution from householders.

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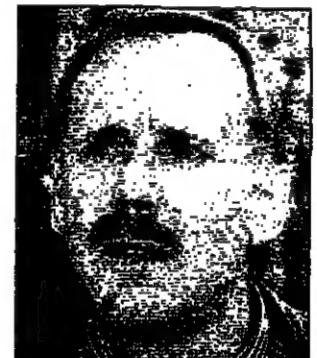


Princess Michael of Kent on her favourite horse Sprite minutes before it died

Princess's horse collapses at hunt

PRINCESS Michael of Kent was said to be distressed but well after her favourite horse Sprite died while out hunting yesterday. The 19-year-old thoroughbred collapsed after a heart attack, while out with the Beaufort Hunt at Chavagne in Gloucestershire. The princess had dismounted when

she felt the horse to be unwell. A spokeswoman said: "They were taking it very quietly this morning and the princess dismounted as soon as she realised there was a problem. She is 100 per cent well but obviously deeply distressed." The Princess was seen looking tearful as she returned from the place where Sprite died. She told one onlooker: "Perhaps it was the best way for him to go. I've had him for a long time." The pair had hunted together regularly for 15 seasons. Princess Michael was slightly hurt earlier this month when she fell from her horse while out hunting with the Beaufort.



Macrone: he insisted that he was not a joker

Maverick hopes confused voters will try to send in the clone

By ANDREW PIERCE
POLITICAL CORRESPONDENT

THE Health Minister Gerald Macrone is facing an election challenge from a maverick candidate who has changed his name to Gerald Macrone.

The new contender for the constituency of Winchester is an experienced campaigner. Under his original name, Richard Huggett, he caused an upset by winning 10,000 votes in Devon and Plymouth East at the 1992 Euro elections, standing as a Liberal Democrat. The Liberal Democrat was knocked into second place.

Yesterday, as lawyers at Conserva-

tive Central Office were studying his latest plan, Mr Macrone, aged 52, said: "I am not a joker. Politics is far too important to leave to politicians like Mr Macrone." His limited manifesto is a populist theme. For example, he would introduce a minimum wage for MPs.

The former teacher, a father of four, moved to Winchester last year and has set his sights on reducing or even overturning Mr Macrone's 8,000 majority. He has gone to great lengths to ensure he cannot be successfully challenged in the courts, taking out a pension policy and supermarket loyalty cards in his newly assumed name. Winchester

City Council has confirmed that there is a Gerald Macrone on its new electoral roll.

He has experience of the legal issues because the Liberal Democrats - beaten by only 700 votes in Devon - spent thousands of pounds unsuccessfully challenging the result in court.

This time, Mr Macrone is expected to stand as the Conservative Party candidate, as opposed to Mr Macrone, who was expected to be the Conservative Party candidate, which might now change to Conservative and Unionist candidate. Mr Macrone said: "It will cause confusion for the defending candidate and help me. It

cost me a bus fare to Exeter library to discover I was legally within my right. I am legally watertight again."

Malone is an imitator of those that have gone before him. I am an innovator. I am the clone version of Gerald Macrone. If I cause confusion, and damage his prospects, too bad. Politics is not an easy game."

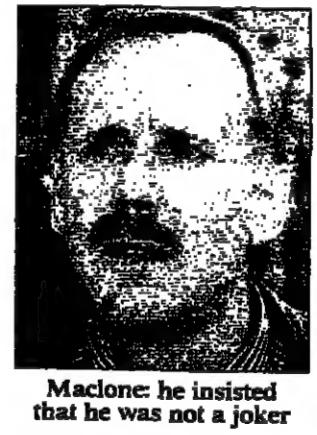
He will require 20 names on his nomination papers, but has already built up a small but loyal following through the readership of his Liberal Democrat magazine.

Hugh Thompson, the Conservative agent in Winchester, said: "There is no point denying it. This man will

be a nuisance, who will cause confusion, and not make our life any easier. We are consulting lawyers to see if the challenge is legal. We can do without it."

Rodney Sabine, the Liberal Democrat constituency chairman in Winchester, said: "We urged the Government to sort out the law on this. Maybe they will, now he is likely to hit them."

Mr Macrone has a further problem. At the last election John Browne, a former Tory MP who had been passed over for Mr Macrone, stood as an independent Tory and polled 3,000 votes. There is speculation that he may fight the seat again.



Macrone: he insisted that he was not a joker

Channel Tunnel passenger services face further delay

By JONATHAN PRYNN, TRANSPORT CORRESPONDENT

LINGERING hopes that Channel Tunnel passenger services would restart this week were dashed yesterday when it emerged that the officials who can authorise the reopening will not meet until Friday at the earliest.

The tunnel remained closed to all but a limited freight container service while senior Eurotunnel officials prepared their presentation to the Channel Tunnel Safety Authority. The five-strong British delegation to the authority will fly to Paris today for a further round of meetings with Eurotunnel executives.

Eurotunnel will present its latest proposals tomorrow and on Thursday for how it would

carry out an evacuation of passengers during the closure of the damaged south tunnel. The authority will, in turn, make its recommendation to the Inter-Governmental Commission (IGC), the body of officials from the two Governments charged with overseeing safety in the tunnel, probably on Friday.

If the IGC accepts that Eurostar and Le Shuttle services are safe, they could resume next weekend, almost two weeks after the fire. Eurotunnel could restart without its express approval, but admits that to do so would be commercial suicide.

By next weekend, Eurotunnel and Eurostar will have

lost about £40 million in revenue, although both are fully insured. A spokesman for Eurostar said it would be able to recoup some of its losses from Eurotunnel under a complex compensation agreement, although there was no question of suing.

The spokesman said it was impossible to estimate the size of the payments. Eurostar is losing about £2 million a day in revenue.

Eurotunnel teams continued to retrieve damaged lorries yesterday, although the charred locomotive remained at the site of the fire. The company has been attacked by the Transport & General Workers Union over the dismissal of 12 security staff five days after fire. The union said it was supporting a challenge to the dismissals at a industrial tribunal.

Shares in Eurotunnel lost more than 5 per cent of their value on the stock market yesterday, falling 5p to 8p. They have dropped by 10p, or about 11 per cent, since the fire.

Letters, page 17

Cattle cull pledge 'must be met'

By MICHAEL HORNBY

FARMERS challenged Douglas Hogg yesterday to honour the pledges made at the European Union summit in Florence last June for a selective cattle cull of up to 140,000 cattle

identified as being at most risk of developing "mad cow" disease. That is one of the main conditions that must be met before the EU will consider lifting the ban on British beef, the statement said.

But Mr Hogg said at the Royal Smithfield Show in London that he had yet to be convinced that a selective cull was justified or would achieve the goal of getting the embargo removed.

A selective cull was now

needed urgently to pave the way for negotiation in Brussels on the steps to lift the worldwide ban on British beef", the statement said.

But Mr Hogg said at the Royal Smithfield Show in London that he had yet to be convinced that a selective cull was justified or would achieve the goal of getting the embargo removed.

Dewar defends code to curb dissent

By JILL SHERMAN
CHIEF POLITICAL CORRESPONDENT

DONALD DEWAR, Labour's Chief Whip, yesterday defended a new disciplinary code that would bar MPs from "bringing the party into disrepute".

The rules, to be put to the Parliamentary Labour Party next week, are intended to stop MPs sniping at the Labour leader or at party policy. They will also enable party whips to intervene more quickly to discipline MPs, with the ultimate sanction of the whip being withdrawn.

The code, intended to prevent a repetition of the bickering during the Labour governments of the 1960s and 1970s, follows highly publicised criticism of Mr Blair by some of his colleagues, most recently an anonymous article in *Tribune* by "Cassandra" claiming that he would be ousted as Prime Minister within a few months of entering Downing Street.

MPs will be told "to refrain from personal attacks upon colleagues; to act in harmony with the policies of the Parliamentary Labour Party; and to do nothing which brings the party into disrepute".

But MPs, who have often complained that they are kept in the dark over policy, have also won a concession. The group that drew up the code has also suggested that Labour ministers would have to consult backbenchers on policy. The document produced by the working party also stipulates that MPs electing Labour backbench committees should have to vote for two women.

Speaking on BBC Radio 4's *The World at One* yesterday, Mr Dewar denied that the rules were "draconian" or intended to "frighten" MPs into good behaviour. The new rules were as much about "rights" as "responsibilities".

He pointed out that, since Labour had not been in office since 1979, the rules governing those circumstances had not changed for more than 20 years. The new code contained an "impressive guarantee" that MPs would be involved in policy formation. However, Mr Dewar admitted that he did want to see "good order" in the party. Under the new rules the Chief Whip would have the power to reprimand MPs publicly instead of in private at as present.

The review team comprised Doug Hoyle, the PLP chairman; John Prescott, the deputy Labour leader; Mr Dewar; Marjorie Mowlam, the Shadow Northern Ireland Secretary; Bridget Prentice, a whip; and the MPs Andrew Bennett and John Garrett.

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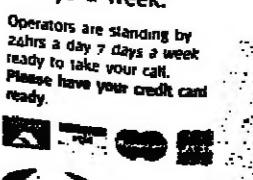
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INTERNATIONAL

LOW COST INTERNATIONAL CALLS

French novelist denies copying Okri's Booker winner



Okri: "There appears to be a similarity. Scenes and characters sound as if they are too close"

By DALYA ALBERGE
AND BEN MACINTYRE

THE French publishers of Ben Okri's novel *The Famished Road* are scrutinising a book which won the Grand Prix du Roman de l'Académie Française this month, after similarities between the books were discovered.

According to a French radio station which compared them, two passages from *Les Honneurs Perdus*, by Calixthe Beyala, published last month, are said to bear distinct similarities to *The Famished Road* — described by *The Times* as "a poetical magical fantasy about growing up in Nigeria". Journalist Pierre Assouline noted that in May Mme Beyala was found guilty of using elements from a novel by the American writer Howard Bute in an earlier work, *When I was five, I killed myself*. She was ordered to remove passages from it.

The Académie Française award is one of the most prestigious international literary awards and, at FF300,000 (£27,000), more valuable than the Booker Prize.

Mr Okri said yesterday: "If these allegations prove true, the real embarrassment and shame is to the Académie for not being aware of international literature, particularly something honoured by the Booker and which is well-known throughout Europe. It has been translated into about 15 languages and won two major Italian prizes."

"What is the point of a national academy of excellence and culture if you're not aware of what's going on in

THE FAMISHED ROAD

Ben Okri's *The Famished Road*: a story of Azaro, a "spirit child" in Nigeria. The thread is his father's ordeal to win back his wife's love. One passage reads: "His wife had ceased listening to him... she had started to drag him by tugging on his trousers. He was trying to free himself from her iron-grip, which beneath the trousers, had even gripped his genitals."

LES HONNEURS PERDUS

Calixthe Beyala's *Les Honneurs Perdus* (*The Lost Honours*): story of African girl in Paris, who tries to protect her honour. One passage reads: "His wife wasn't listening to him. She grabbed him by the trousers and dragged him. He tried to free himself from this iron-grip which, in addition to holding on to his trousers, was also gripping his testicles."

the international arena of the arts? According to M Assouline, the earlier charges "should have caused the French academicians to be more circumspect".

Mme Beyala, born in the Cameroons in 1961, claimed to be the victim of racial hatred and persecution and was reported to be considering legal action against her accusers. She said that left-wing journal-

ists in France were trying to discredit her. "This is malicious and spiteful racial hatred. I have had enough of it," she told *Le Figaro* newspaper. "Why are they trying to tarnish me? They are trying to destroy me; this is persecution."

Mr Okri said: "I received a call from my German translator who lives in France. He heard it over the radio. There appears to be a disturbing similarity. Scenes and characters sound as if they are simply too close. I hope all this proves to be untrue and that there will be a happy outcome to all of this."

Mme Beyala said: "If you look, in any book, for a phrase which vaguely resembles another you can always find it. What I now know is that I annoy journalists on the Left, since I'm not part of their club, being a woman and black." Although Mme Beyala's Académie Française award has been announced, the ceremony is not until December 5.

Paul Marsh, Mr Okri's agent for the translation rights of foreign editions, said: "At the moment, Ben's French publisher is reading the two books alongside one another, making a close textual comparison, to determine what's been going on. They hope to have completed that within 48 hours."

Mr Okri said: "I simply don't know about the intricacies of the political and literary scene in France. All I do know is that worrying allegations have been made, are being investigated, and I leave it now to the publishers and the lawyers to sort it out."

The Académie Française yesterday declined to comment on the accusations.



Calixthe claims that she is the victim of racial hatred and persecution and may sue her accusers

Clergy condemn plan for secret church hearings

By RUTH GLEDHILL, RELIGION CORRESPONDENT

PLANS by the Church of England to hold secret tribunals for clerical offenders were yesterday criticised by clergy, who argued that justice had to be seen to be done.

Proposals to replace the Church's 900-year-old consistory court system with tribunals to carry out disciplinary hearings for clergy accused of misconduct are to be debated by the General Synod, which opened at Church House, Westminster, last night.

But at a preliminary meeting, the plans to take the Church's traditionally open system of justice behind closed doors were challenged, even though eventual findings would be published.

The reforms were prompted primarily by the recent trials of the Dean of Lincoln, Dr Brandon Jackson, acquitted of misconduct with a former cathedral verger, and of the Rev Tom Tyler, convicted of adultery with a parishioner.

The Rev Robert Ellis, communications officer for the diocese of Lichfield, said openness was crucial. "What are we frightened of?... The Church of England has got enough credit in the bank so when something does go wrong, we can ride the storm and by doing it in public we

are conveying the message that we are confident of what we are doing."

Prebendary Sam Philpott, Vicar of St Peter's, Plymouth, agreed. "If we are going to go for transparency and we make the claim that transparency is part of natural justice, then private hearings are not on the agenda."

The Rev Benjamin Hopkinson, from Middlesbrough, said there was a case for some hearings to be heard in private. "But I believe this report has got it the wrong way round. It needs to be that all hearings will be in public unless the tribunal head decides that, for good reasons, the hearing should be in private."

But Canon Alan Hawken, chairman of the working party responsible for the reforms, pleaded for support, claiming the present system was discredited. "There have been three consistory courts in 30 years. This does not mean that the clergy are as white as the driven snow. The reality is 99.99 per cent of all disciplinary cases in the last 30 years have taken place outside of the procedures laid down to deal with them," he said.

The report, *Under Authority*, will be discussed by the entire synod later this week.

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Slimmers told to abandon guilt and blame the genes

MIDDLE-AGED women who despair of losing weight may be blaming themselves unfairly. Scientists have found that genes have more influence on shape than diet or exercise. At least 60 per cent of body fat is determined by inherited factors, according to a study of 350 female twins.

The research, by the country's first research unit for adult diseases in twins, also found that genes played a major role in determining whether women were apple-shaped, carrying extra fat around the waist, or pear-shaped.

■ New research has thrown a lifeline to middle-aged women who blame themselves when everything goes pear-shaped. Now they can blame their parents, Jeremy Laurance reports

carrying it on the hips and thighs. The unit, based at Guy's & St Thomas's Hospital, southeast London, compared fat levels in 350 pairs of identical and non-identical twins.

Fat levels were measured by a body-composition scan, using low-

dose X-rays which gave an exact weight in grams of body fat, muscle and bone. The results showed that a woman's genetic inheritance had one and a half times as much influence on her shape as diet or exercise.

Previous studies, which have

estimated fat levels from measurements of height and weight, have suggested that genes determine between 5 per cent and 20 per cent of body fat. But Tim Spector, head of the unit, said these figures were inaccurate and could make people feel more guilty than they should.

"Our findings explain why some people can't lose weight easily. They are not being slothful or lazy. But the results don't offer an excuse to over-indulge in cream cakes," he said.

"It does mean that some people who are genetically predisposed to

put on weight will need to follow a more rigorous diet or exercise regime.

"Some people may go for a walk every day to keep their weight down while others will need to do two or three times that to get the same effect."

Apple-shaped women are at greater risk of heart disease and diabetes and therefore had a more urgent need to lose weight, Dr Spector said. The traditional pear-shaped form provided protection from these diseases.

"Our finding confirms what a lot

of people, even thin ones, know: that when they put on weight it goes to a particular place and they can't explain why except by looking at their parents.

"The generally reassuring message is that pear-shaped fat is good even if it is not fashionable. It is better than a thin bottom and a fat tummy."

The study also found that women taking hormone replacement therapy tended to have less body fat, contrary to popular belief that HRT triggered weight gain.

The unit is now seeking 3,000

extra twin volunteers for a larger study to identify the genes involved. It will include men and younger women.

"If we can find the genes we may be able to use them in a diagnostic test before putting people on a diet or exercise programme," said Dr Spector. "We may eventually be able to find a treatment that could switch fat metabolism on or off."

□ Twins interested in joining the research programme should call 0990 770099. The unit is especially keen to recruit non-identical twins.



Lizzie Anders and Katie Hayes, who were saved, and Andy Meakins, missing

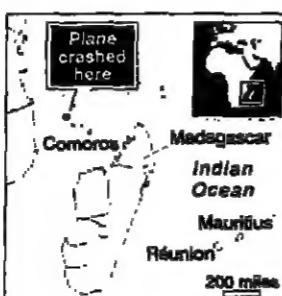
Britons sang and read to spread calm before hijack plane crashed

REPORTS BY INIGO GILMORE IN ST DENIS, RÉUNION, AND EMMA WILKINS

THE two British women who survived the crash of the hijacked Ethiopian airliner off the Comoros Islands said yesterday that they were determined to continue their round-the-world trip.

"The old saying is that if you fall off a horse you must get straight back on it," Katie Hayes, 31, said from her hospital bed in St Denis, capital of Réunion. In the next bed was her friend, Lizzie Anders. The two women told how they had tried to help passengers who were panicking around them. "I still cannot believe I am alive," Miss Anders said. "I thought I was going to drown, still strapped in my seat. Once in the water I had this terrible fear of being eaten by sharks."

Miss Anders, 32, a former record company marketing manager from Notting Hill,



happens. I just remember thinking to myself, 'I'm going to die'. And here we are."

The women, who were one month into a year-long trip, recalled how, 20 minutes after take-off, just after air hostesses had taken round the drinks trolley, chaos broke out.

"People were standing up and saying there was a man with a bomb," Miss Hayes said.

"One of the hijackers came on the intercom and said he had two bombs, but said he would not use them if their instructions were followed.

Everyone was panicking. I started singing because I did not want to hear what they were saying."

"The guy next to us was in a terrible state," Miss Anders said.

"We told each other we must remain calm and accept the situation."

The women tried to remain calm by reading

their books. After about four hours the Ethiopian captain announced that they had run out of fuel and would have to crash-land. "People around us were screaming, running around; it was pandemonium," Miss Anders said. "Many people did not know how to put on their lifejackets or how to inflate them. I was telling them you must pull the red toggle and I was leaning across helping people," Miss Hayes said. "The crash happened very slowly, the plane skinned the water and went up again before smashing down. Suddenly water was washing over my face. I struggled out of my seat and was thrashing around, I swallowed a lot of water and thought I was going to drown. I saw sunlight and started swimming towards it."

Miss Anders said

doctors had denied the hijackers medical treatment once they had been identified. "It was understandable. Why should they have helped these guys while others around them were dying? There were some beautiful Kenyan children who were sitting near us who were terrified. I don't think they survived."

Two Ethiopians arrested in hospital were now believed to have been innocent passengers and may be released today, police said, after Yonas Mekuria, the co-pilot, said he had not been among the hijackers. Officials were trying to confirm that the men were passengers.

So far 78 bodies have been recovered while 22 are still missing. Two of the 25 people who survived the impact of their injuries in hospital yesterday.

FAMILIES of British passengers feared dead in the air crash spoke of their shock and grief yesterday as more bodies were recovered from the wreckage. Five Britons are still officially missing.

Tony Charters, 46, deputy director of Save the Children's operations in Ethiopia, was on the flight, his mother, Eileen, said. Mrs Charters, 73, from Plympton, Devon, said: "It is a complete waste. He was a devoted father and son and a modest man. Helping other people was his life's work. Mr Charters and his wife, Nadia, had two young children."

Save the Children said: "He was highly regarded and a talented, experienced and humane person. His death is a great loss."

Relatives of Andy Meakins, 43, an aid worker with Tear Fund, gathered at the family home in Beckenham, Kent, yesterday. Mr Meakins and his wife, Ruth, had three young children.

Brian Tolley, 61, who is believed to have been on the flight, was a British-born journalist who emigrated to Kenya in 1968. Kathleen Wilding, 57, was also confirmed as missing by the Foreign Office yesterday.



Survivors of the hijack awaiting evacuation on Sunday to major hospitals after treatment near the crash site

Grieving families mourn loved ones

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WHITEHILL

Night sky 'will be blotted out by millennium lights'

By NICK NUTTALL, ENVIRONMENT CORRESPONDENT

ASTRONOMERS complained yesterday that Millennium Commission plans to illuminate hundreds of buildings will intensify light pollution and blot out the night sky for millions of people.

"The children of the next millennium are being condemned to never seeing the stars," John Mason of the British Astronomical Society told a conference in London yesterday. Astronomers claim the commission is ignoring growing calls for the skies to remain dark.

The projects would use lottery money to light up bridges, parks, historic buildings, docks, office blocks and more than 400 churches, many in rural areas. Dr Mason said the commission should withdraw funding.

"We are going to be lighting up the whole place like a Christmas tree. The commission is handing out money for floodlighting schemes left, right and centre. We need much more policing of this. It is wasteful in terms of energy and money."

Dr Mason said Britain was

now the third most light-polluted country in Europe after The Netherlands and Belgium, which are more densely populated. Most of England is affected, with only places such as Exmoor and Dartmoor unspoilt. Even in East Anglia many people cannot get a clear view of the night sky because of light scattered by security lights or driving ranges.

Richard Simmonds, chairman of the Countryside Commission, said the North of England, the Peak District, the Scottish Highlands and large parts of Wales were also still relatively unpolluted.

But Mr Simmonds said for most people the night sky had been stolen. "I live 30 miles from Hyde Park Corner and can read the small print of my credit card in my back garden at night," he said.

Graham Jukes, director of professional services at the Chartered Institute of Environmental Health, said light pollution was also contributing to stress. Between 1993 and 1995 the number of complaints to local authorities about intrusive

lighting in the countryside has risen by 44 per cent.

Dr Mason said some organisations had responded to the problem in the past two years. The Highways Agency had begun to install high sodium lights on motorways and major roads. These direct light downwards rather than allowing it to disperse into the sky.

Around 22 councils have drafted planning guidance to restrict badly designed lighting in new developments. But said Dr Mason, many other councils had done nothing.

He attacked the unregulated growth in sports facilities, such as floodlit golf driving ranges, and in security and decorative lighting in gardens and outside houses, supermarkets and public buildings.

Mr Simmonds said guidelines should be issued to ensure lights were angled downwards. Light manufacturers and stores needed to educate homeowners through leaflets and instructions on environmentally friendly fittings and installation.

The commission is to publish a good-practice guide on



Light pollution is clear in a satellite image of Europe. The red lights are oil wells

Cluedo call to discover the man whodunnit

By ALAN HAMILTON

CLUEDO fans were involved in a new mystery yesterday: nobody seems to know what has happened to the man who invented the detective board game.

Anthony Pratt, a solicitors' clerk, created the thoroughly English amusement in 1948. Now the makers, Waddingtons, are trying to trace him to present him with a commemorative trophy in celebrations to mark the 150 millionth sale.

However, Mr Pratt sold his copyright to the company in the 1950s and they have had no contact since the world championships ten years ago, when he was living in Birmingham. Mr Pratt would now be aged 93.

Clare Sawkins of Waddingtons said the company wanted to honour the inventor or an immediate relative. Cluedo, with its miniature murder weapons and cast list of suspects, is the company's best-selling game after Monopoly. Three million sets are still sold each year in a total of 23 countries.

Hope for those off their oats

MEDICAL BRIEFING

THOUSANDS of people who have avoided all foods containing oats may in future be able to enjoy porridge, breakfast cereals, flapjacks or baking rolled oats.

It has been supposed that patients with coeliac disease suffered sensitivity to all cereals other than maize, but a recent small trial reported in the *British Medical Journal* found that nine with coeliac disease reacted unfavourably to oats. In some cases of coeliac disease the reaction to wheat can be so severe that even a communion wafer can cause days of illness.

Cereals contain a protein, gluten, which in those who have a genetic vulnerability to it causes an immune response which damages the lining of the small intestine preventing the absorption of fats and other essential nutrients. In children who develop coeliac disease — known also as gluten enteropathy — symptoms are obvious: abdominal pain, diarrhoea, anaemia and failure to thrive. In adults, the onset is sometimes more insidious, with anaemia, weight loss and neurological symptoms.

DR THOMAS STUTTAFORD

268,921 dead seals. The tip of the Canadian iceberg.

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MPs demand assurances that EMU regulations will not apply to countries that choose to stay out

Clarke challenged over promise on currency talks

By ALICE THOMSON AND JAMES LANDALE

GORDON BROWN told the Chancellor yesterday that MPs from all sides of the Commons were "absolutely right" to unite in demanding a debate this week on preparations for a single currency.

Mr Brown, the Shadow Chancellor, challenged Kenneth Clarke's claim that nothing of substance would be decided at the meeting of European finance ministers on Monday when he had said in a letter to the chairman of the European Select Committee: "Political agreement is likely on December 2."

He continued: "Surely this is a matter where we should hear the Government's position, where the views of Members of the House should be heard and where we should see the paper that is now before the European ministers. There is now only one reason for denying the debate that the House and the country want — it is for reasons of internal Tory party management."

Tony King (C, Bridgwater) said that Britain had historically had the closest interest in the performance of European economies. "It would be grossly irresponsible on your part and on the Government's part if we didn't see, if the euro is going to be set up, that it is set up on a basis that actually works."

The former Chancellor Norman Lamont (C, Kingston-upon-Thames) agreed with Mr Clarke's interpretation of

the regulations that Britain could not be fined for high budget deficits if it remained outside monetary union. But he added that the fines and scrutiny provision would apply if Britain did join.

This House is entitled to debate the level of the fines, the flexibility and inflexibility of the system — that has not been debated adequately so far until this afternoon," he said. "If it had been, this needless row would have been avoided."

Peter Shore (Lab, Bethnal Green and Stepney) said Mr Clarke's confirmation that he would place a "scrutiny reserve" on any political agreement on monetary union.

"If the Government were now to rule out membership of EMU in the next Parliament, it is likely you would find you were excluded from the discussions, or the real decisions would take place elsewhere."

Bill Cash (C, Stafford) asked whether Mr Clarke would veto the regulations unless Britain had an explicit guarantee that it would be excluded from them outside a currency bloc.

David Heathcoat-Amory (C, Wells), the Euro-sceptic who resigned as a minister over the Government's position on Europe, told Mr Clarke: "This unnecessary row could have been resolved much earlier by the granting of a full debate about an issue which the Prime Minister said

Leading article, page 17



Kenneth Clarke, who promised to seek copper-bottomed guarantees that Brussels will not interfere with Britain's economy if it keeps the pound

"The stability pact makes good sense for Britain, whether we are in or out"

KENNETH CLARKE made a statement to the Commons yesterday to address

MPs' concerns about regulations governing Britain's possible membership of a single currency. He said there had been misleading claims about the regulations, which included a stability pact designed to help to ensure that participants in economic and monetary union (EMU) did not run excessive deficits.

"I am strongly in favour of full parliamentary debate and scrutiny of these important issues. That scrutiny of what are called fines, which is really the taxation of this country by the European authorities, you are transferring in advance the power to tax this country from the Treasury, which you head and from which you can be removed, to people who are not accountable to Parliament," he said.

"First, the opt-out from EMU that the

Prime Minister negotiated at Maastricht remains entirely unaffected. Secondly, everything contained in the EU stability pact — including fines on 'ins' — derives from and was foreshadowed in the Maastricht treaty. Thirdly, unless we join Stage Three of the EMU, we will retain, as now, control of domestic economic policy. We will still have our existing commitment to endeavour to avoid an excessive deficit but there is no question of any fines or other sanctions being imposed on us for running an excessive deficit."

"I know that some colleagues have raised the possibility that Recital 13 of the draft regulation strengthening surveillance could be used to impose policy obligations or sanctions that can be binding on member states. This interpretation is incorrect. Article 103(5) can only be used to impose detailed rules as to procedure. Any recommendations that might be made under Article 103(4) are non-binding.

"Finally, the stability pact makes good economic sense for the UK and for Europe as a means of making sure that EMU is soundly based, whether we are in or out of a single currency."

"If we are in, we need to ensure that no other member of EMU falls into excessive deficit or debt crisis which might tend to drive up interest rates. If we are out, we need the Euro-zone to be stable as the British economy is more successful when the economies of our major customers are successful. That is why I am negotiating so toughly in Ecofin in British interests to get the details right."

initial test for a Blair government. There is no point in Britain joining if any monetary union is going to be shaky from the start.

The furore of the past few days has been a gift for Labour which Gordon Brown exploited in the Commons yesterday. Opposition is about positioning and words, but government is harder. The shrewd members of the Shadow Cabinet will understand the strains that a Labour government would face over a single currency.

They would quickly learn about the destructive force of Europe.

PETER RIDDELL

Labour would have to learn about destructive force of Europe

Europe has had a uniquely destructive impact on British politics — aggravating party divisions as no other issue does. Try as they might, the Tories can never sustain a common line for long. The hard core of Tory sceptics always fear they are about to be sold out by pro-European ministers. There were always going to be differences over the single currency regulations, but the scale and intensity of the latest row were unnecessary, inflamed by the suspicions of the sceptics and the Government's mishandling of the Commons.

Kenneth Clarke bought time

yesterday with a skilful performance that should defuse the issue for Budget week, though perhaps only until the meeting of European finance ministers next Monday. Only occasionally did his disdain for his sceptic critics show, as when he complained about the impossibility of permanent parliamentary debate over Britain's negotiating position and warned that "occasional parliamentary hysteria was not in the national interest".

Otherwise, he offered reassurance. No binding decisions would be taken until after the House had held a debate and taken the necessary vote. Mr Clarke's view about

the impact on Britain was even endorsed by Norman Lamont, who, after all, negotiated the terms of the opt-out in the Maastricht treaty. Mr Lamont said the real issue is not whether Britain's opt-out might be eroded but the fines and sanctions involved in any monetary union. Mr Clarke offered detailed explanations about the implications. He emphasised the desirability of the Euro-zone being stable without excessive deficits or high interest rates whether Britain

joins or stays out: "the British economy is more successful when the economies of our major customers are successful".

Mr Clarke was firm in answering the worries of sceptics that the stability pact will include convergence programmes which would apply to non-joiners like Britain even if we stay outside monetary union. They have argued that Recital 13 of the draft regulation strengthening surveillance could be used to impose policy obligations or sanctions that can be binding on all member states. Mr Clarke maintained that a country would only be obliged to provide and share information about its economic policies and performance — in effect formalising what already happens.

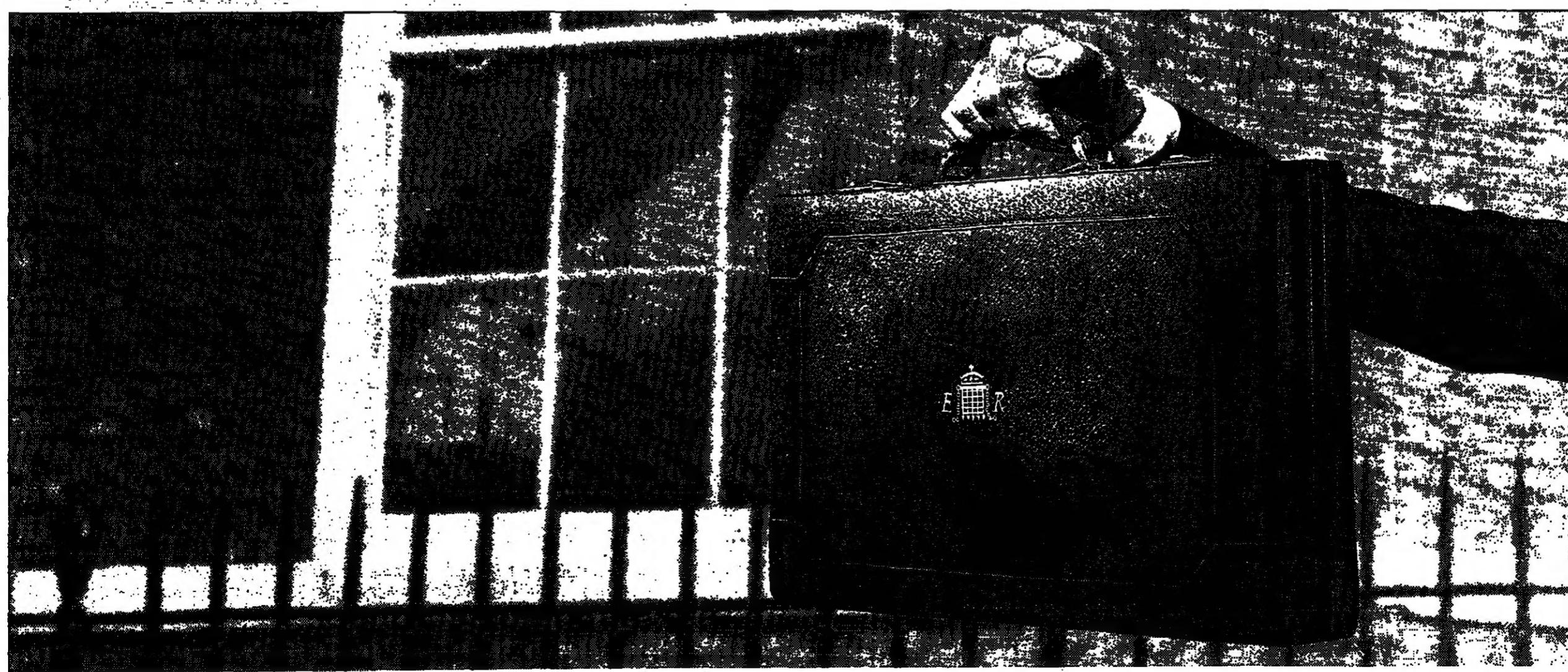
Any recommendations that might be made under Article 103(4) are non-binding.

In a letter to MPs, Mr Clarke said that "if any further attempt were made concerning convergence among the out to include provisions affecting the freedom of action of states in respect of their economic policies, as opposed to the provision of information, we would not be able to agree it".

That is the crux of the row. If that was not clear enough, Mr Clarke was conciliatory in response to

John Redwood's request that the legal wording of the regulations should make it explicit that any sanctions do not apply to non-joiners. There are a number of loose ends revealed by the documents leaked over the weekend, notably over the monitoring of exchange rate movements. The next test will come after the finance ministers' meeting in a week.

All this is really a sideshow. Mr Clarke's most revealing comment was that he would be against joining monetary union if the convergence criteria were fudged since this would put intolerable strains on the system. That is also the key



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French fuel crisis grows as drivers' talks grind to halt

FROM BEN MACINTYRE AND SUSAN BELL IN PARIS

THE most serious bout of industrial unrest in France since last winter's crippling 24-day transport strike worsened last night after a 14-hour negotiating session between union leaders and haulage bosses ended in mutual recriminations and deadlock.

More than a dozen fuel depots in the south and west have been sealed off by lorries and many petrol stations ran out of supplies on the eighth day of the protest by lorry drivers. "Most refineries are blocked," a spokesman for the French oil industry said.

The French drivers are demanding higher wages, shorter working hours and retirement at 55 rather than 60. The Government-appointed mediator, Roger Cros, arranged more talks as Alain Juppé, the Prime Minister, urged the two sides to reach an agreement quickly. "The Government has done everything it can to get these negotiations moving. I'm following the talks hour by hour," M Juppé said.

Bordeaux, the southwestern city where M Juppé is mayor, has been the target of a particularly intensive blockade and most petrol stations in the city are closed.

Encouraged by opinion polls showing widespread public support in spite of the disruption, the French drivers vowed to intensify the protest. On Sunday the traffic information service reported that 60 major roads were partially or completely blocked, but by last night that figure had risen to 160, with countless smaller roads also affected. Lorries were stopped at five frontier crossings between France and Germany and the drivers also prevented access to industrial

zones and fuel depots in Le Havre and Rouen.

Production at the Renault car factory at Douai in northern France ground to halt through lack of parts, and roads leading to and from the vast Rungis food market near Paris were blocked as drivers threatened to mount a full-scale blockade of the city.

Traffic on the main motorway north of the capital near Charles de Gaulle airport was cut to a single lane, causing huge tailbacks. A farmer attempted to break through a barricade in Valmont, Normandy, seriously injuring two lorry drivers.

Roger Poletti, head of the transport division of the powerful Force Ouvrière union, last night called on drivers to maintain the pressure. "We have obtained nothing," M Juppé said.

M Poletti was nicknamed "the Red Devil" by the British media for his role in organising the massive hauliers' strike of 1992 in which France was paralysed for ten days as lorry drivers blocked motorways in protest at a new points system for driving licences.

Before mounting the pres-

ent strike, M Poletti travelled around the country visiting lorry drivers and local union representatives. "After talking to these people it was obvious we had to do something," he said.

"We wanted to negotiate but, when it became clear that it was no longer possible, we had to take action in order to improve welfare conditions."

The union which M Poletti represents is known to be relatively moderate and its involvement at this level in the blockades is a clear signal to the authorities of the seriousness of the hauliers' action and the widespread support it enjoys.

Force Ouvrière was jointly responsible for spearheading last year's transport strike and obviously does not intend to be excluded from the latest fight for better pay and working conditions throughout the industry.

Born in Corsica, M Poletti, 57, served as a navigator in the French Air Force from 1958 to 1963. He joined the Paris Métro as a ticket puncher in 1964 and was soon a union activist. His fighting spirit is in his blood. "Both my parents were militant unionists. I was so full of admiration for what they did, that I knew I must also become involved," he said.

His promotion to driver, and eventually supervisor, matched his ascent through union ranks, culminating with his election to his present post in 1992. "Decidedly, I am a terrible man," he says, referring to his old nickname with a chuckle. Although a self-avowed "man of the Left" he says he is neither communist, nor socialist, but describes himself as a humanist.

Association wrote to John Major, demanding that he intervene personally to end "this wholly unlawful behaviour" by the French. The dispute has already cost British hauliers £3 million.

Tired and angry, British drivers briefly blocked the port to private cars before calling off the protest.

"Their tempers just boiled over ... Who can blame them?" said Kenny, 38-tonne vehicle is at the head of a



Lorries line up at Calais yesterday as French drivers intensified their blockade of roads to the ferry terminals after marathon talks to end the strike collapsed

Britons stuck in Calais 'being driven mad' in queues

BY BILL FROST

BRITISH drivers stranded in Calais gave a warning that perishable cargoes would soon rot if the dispute dragged on. Grudging admiration for the solidarity shown by French lorry drivers was last night turning to open anger at the blockade.

As queues grew longer and tempers frayed, the Freight Transport

Association wrote to John Major, demanding that he intervene personally to end "this wholly unlawful behaviour" by the French. The dispute has already cost British hauliers £3 million.

Tired and angry, British drivers briefly blocked the port to private cars before calling off the protest.

"Their tempers just boiled over ... Who can blame them?" said Kenny,

who is carrying fruit. "As I look out of my cab window I see the French piercing of drums ready to light bonfires so they keep warm through the night. They have us in a stranglehold and it is driving us all mad."

Martin Steele, carrying a load of oranges from Spain, has been in France for eight days; he should have been home in Grimsby last week. His 38-tonne vehicle is at the head of a

line of lorries stretching four miles back to a main route into the port.

"I brought over a load of sheep carcasses to be delivered across northern Spain. The blockade began to bite around Bordeaux. I saw a picket at a motorway toll booth and did a U-turn. Illegal and dangerous perhaps, but better than being stranded there forever and a day."

Over the next 48 hours Mr Steele,

33, took back roads to avoid the blockade, made his deliveries and headed back for Calais. "I arrived just as they decided to step up their action. Soon, I will run low on fuel and be unable to power the refrigeration unit. That is when the cargo begins to perish," he added. "We had grudging respect for this lot ... the way they stick together. Now though, we are just sick of them."

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Simpson caught out by phone messages

FROM GILES WHITTELL
IN LOS ANGELES

WITHIN minutes of resuming the witness stand yesterday, O.J. Simpson was caught apparently telling a lie about his activities on the night of the murders of Nicole Brown Simpson, his former wife, and her friend Ronald Goldman.

After a tense cross-examination on Friday about his marriage, Mr Simpson faced tough cross-examination yesterday on 78 crucial minutes during which the murders happened and his whereabouts are unaccounted for.

Asked about his phone calls in the hours before that "window of opportunity" on June 12, 1994, a sombre Mr Simpson denied trying to retrieve messages from his girlfriend, Paula Barbieri. He was shown printed records showing he twice called his message centre and asked if Ms Barbieri had tried to contact him.

"The reason you were trying to get in touch with her was because you were feeling alone, true?" Daniel Petrocelli, the Goldman family's lawyer asked, picking up a theme from Friday, when he presented a record of an eight-minute message from Ms Barbieri to Mr Simpson ending their relationship the day before the murders. The break-up, amid the wreckage of his 17-year marriage to Nicole, sent Mr Simpson into a murderous frenzy, the Goldman legal team claims.

Mr Simpson rejected the idea that he was lonely that night, or that he blamed his former wife for his mood. Mr Petrocelli's questioning moved towards the time of the murders and, in a tense face-to-face encounter in the closing minutes of Friday's evidence, the lawyer accused Mr Simpson of carrying them out. Mr Simpson has given a variety of alibis in media interviews and a lengthy pre-trial deposition.

Leo Tyrell, a civil rights lawyer who has become Mr Simpson's unofficial media spokesman, has pointed out that in a civil trial, "we only need four votes" from the jury to avoid responsibility for the killing. *Time* magazine reported that Mr Simpson is nearly bankrupt and broods over the trial, but he remains a consummate performer.

70,000 in Milosevic protest

Belgrade: As protests entered a second week, a 70,000-strong crowd demonstrated on the Serbian capital's streets in a nationwide protest over attempts to annul opposition successes in municipal elections (Dessa Trevisan writes).

Western countries, including the United States, Britain and France, have expressed dismay at the way the ruling Socialist Party of President Milosevic handled the elections. The opposition is calling for civil disobedience.

Libyan threat

Madrid: Libya may be able to attack Europe with nuclear weapons by 2006, *El Mundo* reported, apparently quoting secret Nato documents. Also listed as threats were Syria, Iraq, Iran and Russia.

Hotel fire kills 3

New York: Three people died and 33 were hurt when fire swept through the residential Hamilton Hotel in Harlem. More than 150 firefighters tackled the blaze, which broke out on the fourth floor. (AP)

Aboriginal toll

Sydney: A report into aboriginal deaths in custody disclosed that 96 died between 1989 and 1996, still a higher rate than white prisoners (Roger Maynard writes). Twenty-two died last year.

American 'free'

Tokyo: Carl Hunziker, an American who has been held in North Korea for three months on spying charges, is to be released and flown home, the United States Embassy here said. (Reuters)

Death plunge

New York: A boy aged two and his seven-year-old sister were critical in hospital after they were pushed off the top of a 14-storey building by their mother. The mother and another son were killed. (AP)

New beginning

New York: Adam and Eve may have been "some other form" than human, Cardinal John O'Connor said. Last month the Pope called evolution "more than just a hypothesis". (AP)

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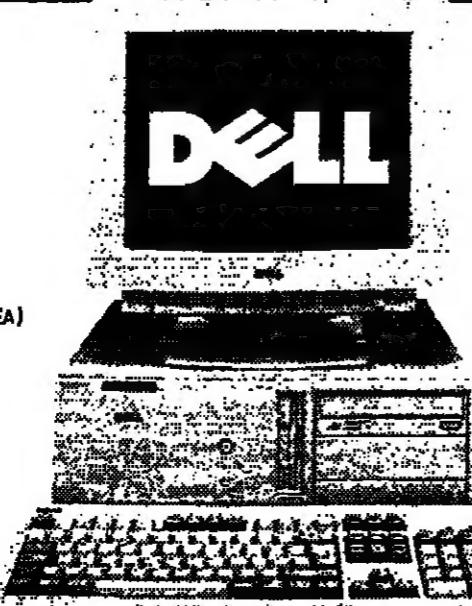
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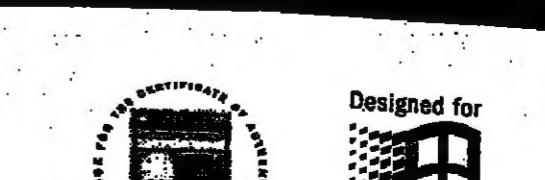
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Hitler adopted anti-Semitism 'merely as stepping-stone to power'

THE young Adolf Hitler had Jewish friends and developed a fierce anti-Semitic attitude only because it caught the popular mood and allowed him to build a mass movement. That is the conclusion of Brigitte Hamann, a Viennese academic who has triggered a new historical controversy about Hitler's personal responsibility for the Holocaust.

Dr Hamann's scrupulous paper chase through Austrian and German archives showed Hitler respected and later protected the Jewish family doctor who treated his mother's cancer, that he had Jewish friends in his working man's hostel in Vienna, and that he

The new findings of an Austrian historian support the "functionalist" theory behind the Holocaust, Roger Boyes writes from Bonn

admired Jewish actors, actresses and composers.

The Austrian historian argues that Hitler's anti-Semitism was filtered through the newspapers and the political rhetoric of the day. He saw how populists such as Karl Lüger, the Mayor of Vienna, manipulated the fears about east European Jews to whip up Austrian emotions and mobilise support. Hitler's hatred of Jews, to summe-

rise Dr Hamann's theories crudely, was nothing personal — just a stepping-stone to power.

The book, *Hitler's Vienna* (Piper Verlag, Munich), has thrown another spanner into the never-ending Holocaust debate between, broadly, "functionalists" and "functionalists".

For "functionalists" there is a direct relation between Hitler's biography and his ideology, and a

direct link between his ideology and Nazi policy. The British historian Gerald Fleming, for example, sees a straight line between Hitler's observations as a 15-year-old to a school colleague while passing a synagogue — "that does not belong here in Linz" — and the implicit, unwritten order to annihilate Jews decades later.

The "functionalists", working from the fact that there was no direct Hitler order for destroying the Jews, explained the Holocaust in terms of developing competitions between different Nazi institutions. Sometimes the functionalist thesis plays down Hitler's individual responsibility.

All Hitler biographers search for the roots of his anti-Semitism. Some, noting Hitler was close to his mother, claim he took against the family doctor, Eduard Bloch. But Dr Hamann has been through Dr Bloch's cash receipts and hospital records and concludes that the Jewish doctor significantly undercharged the family.

Even after his mother's death, Hitler continued to write Christmas cards to the doctor and sent him a picture. After Austria's annexation in 1938, Dr Bloch asked Hitler for help and the Gestapo was told to protect him.

Dr Hamann found two versions of the memoirs of Hitler's

schoolmate, August Kubizek — a key source for historians who argue that Hitler hated Jews from adolescence. The second version, published after the Second World War, had added material about anti-Semitism, presumably at the urging of the publisher.

The Austrian historian has also found enough documentation to demonstrate that Hitler was not rejected by Jewish professors at the Vienna arts academy, which was also regarded by some biographers as a probable motive for anti-Semitism. Another theory — that he caught syphilis from a Jewish prostitute in Vienna — is dismissed, too.

Spanish leader bolsters Britain's European image

FROM TUNKU VARADARAJAN IN MADRID

A SINGLE European currency "would not be desirable or convenient" without Britain's full participation, José María Aznar, the Spanish Prime Minister, said yesterday.

Señor Aznar, who arrives in London tomorrow for talks at 10 Downing Street, said that the purpose of his visit was to "improve bilateral relations with Britain, where there are still a few irritations", and to have detailed exchange of views with his "old friend", John Major, on the European Union, Gibraltar and Nazar.

"I want to establish absolute confidence between Spain and Britain," Señor Aznar told *The Times*. "We are both great, proud nations, and there has to be a smoothest possible relationship between us." The Spanish Prime Minister, an unflagging proponent of monetary union and greater political union in Europe, emphasised that he did not regard Britain as a "bad European".

He said: "I have no time for those who make it a habit of criticising London for everything. No one would be more delighted than I would be if Britain were to become an active participant in the construction of Europe, but I insist that we have to understand and respect its concerns. I do not say that I share these concerns, but they must be respected. After all, Britain

has its national interests to defend, as do all of us."

In spite of his enthusiasm for the "European project", Señor Aznar has always been careful to ring-fence "sovereignty". In *The Second Transition*, his book, published two years ago, he wrote: "It is essential to affirm that the European project is, and must always be, compatible with the respective national goals of its member states." Yesterday, interviewed in a room lined with Miró paintings, he repeated that assertion.

For the Spanish Prime Minister, however, membership of the first tier of economic and monetary union is a vital national interest. "Historically, Spain has tended to miss out on Europe's great movements. We were not at the top table when a 'modern Europe' was designed.

"We are determined, now, to be there always. Spain entered this century as a weak country, without a project, a pulse, or a clear orientation. But it is entering the 21st century, I assure you, as a strong, respected and serious player."

Participation in the first round of monetary union would, for Señor Aznar, be proof of Spain's "seriousness". It is a word he employs often. "I am confident that we will

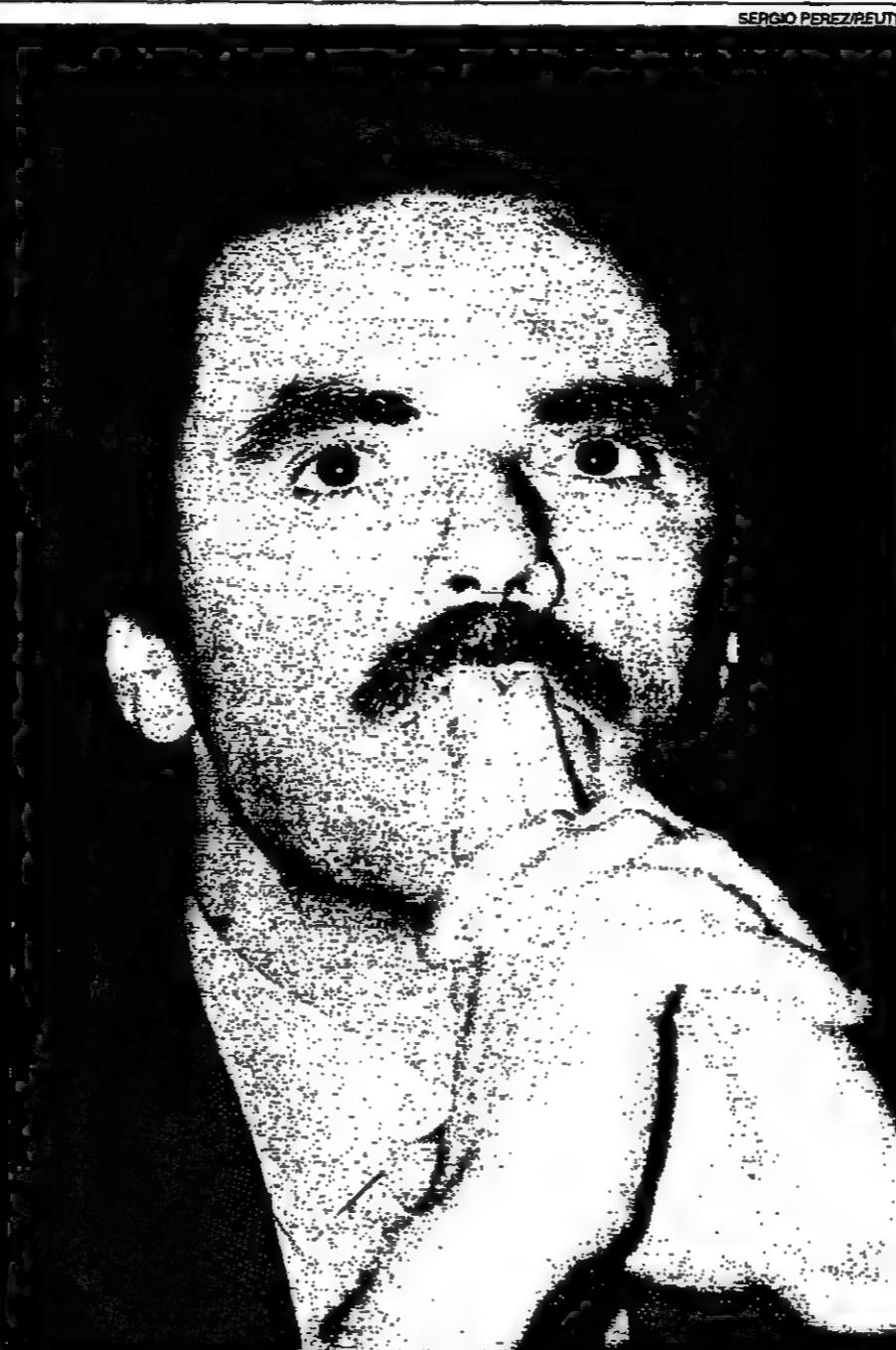
make it. Why? Because we now have our lowest ever rate of inflation, our lowest ever interest rates, healthy savings, a stable currency, and growth based on investment."

Would the euro work without Britain's participation? "It would work, of course, in the sense that it would still exist. But such a state of affairs would not be desirable or convenient. I would like to see Britain in and that is one of the things I will discuss with Mr Major. But I'm sure that he has things to say to me too."

Gibraltar is also "very much" on the agenda. "Our position is crystal clear. We want it back, full stop. But we are not going to let that become an unhelpful obsession in our bilateral relations. The dispute is... an 'inconvenience', one that curbs our relations from reaching plenitude, but we are determined not to let it get in the way of everything else."

Security issues will also be discussed, and here there is "almost total agreement" with Britain. Under Señor Aznar's initiative, parliament recently voted overwhelmingly in favour of Spain's full integration into Nato's military structure, fulfilling a promise made before the general elections in March this year.

Woodrow Wyatt, page 16



Señor Aznar, the Spanish Prime Minister, who will hold talks with John Major tomorrow

Santer fears a paradise lost

FROM CHARLES BREMNER IN BRUSSELS

AS PARLIAMENT was agonising yesterday over plans for European monetary union, Jacques Santer, President of the European Commission, said failure to proceed with the project would amount to "paradise lost".

The last time European monetary union was delayed, in the 1970s, Europe had to wait a generation, Mr Santer said. "Let me tell you one thing: if we delay EMU, it will be a paradise lost."

Mr Santer deplored the way that people in Britain and Denmark, the two countries with opt-outs from the future euro, were "investing stories" to prove that EMU would be a disaster. He attacked fears in Britain over the burden that the liabilities of continental state pensions could impose on a monetary union. "I am highly amazed by such sto-

ries," he said in a speech delivered for him in Dublin.

Mr Santer, who has taken a more aggressive stance towards British resistance to European Union policies, said he was convinced that the Dublin summit next month would produce agreement on a new exchange-rate mechanism for those that do not participate in the euro. Stability of

Deputies threaten to impeach Yeltsin

FROM THOMAS DE WAAL IN MOSCOW

exchange rates among all EU states was vital for the functioning of the single market, he noted. "It is now agreed that states not participating in the euro from 1999 onwards will submit convergence programmes," he said.

Through Kenneth Clarke,

the Chancellor, Britain has

declared its acceptance of the

principle of submitting eco-

nomic plans to Brussels. Since

the Maastricht treaty in 1993,

the practice has been followed

on a voluntary basis. Mr Santer did note, however, that membership of the new-style ERM would be voluntary.

Continuing in literary vein,

Mr Santer said Europe was "no longer waiting for Godot",

the character in the Samuel Beckett play who never arrives.

"Unlike Godot, the euro will come and will be with us in 1999."

Prodi takes high-risk gamble on lira's future

FROM RICHARD OWEN IN ROME

PROFESSOR Romano Prodi, the Italian Prime Minister, yesterday hailed the re-entry of the lira into the exchange-rate mechanism (ERM) after a four-year hiatus as "of the utmost importance" for Italy's attempts to join the European single currency in 1999.

It was "a sign of confidence in the stability we have given the country", he said. The lire later rallied against the mark.

Officials admitted, however, that Italy had been in a weak bargaining position. "The clock was against us," one said, noting that two years of ERM membership is seen as a precondition for joining the single currency.

The centre-right opposition led by Silvio Berlusconi and leading industrialists said Signor Prodi's centre-left coalition had "stared up trouble for the future" by adopting an economic strategy of high taxation which risked recession and unemployment.

"Joining Europe" is still an article of faith in Italy. There is a fear that if Italy is left "outside Europe" as integration proceeds, it will be seen as a second-rate Mediterranean

nation and "sink into North Africa". *La Repubblica* applauded Signor Prodi's "courage" yesterday. It said: "If we become a bit less Italian and a bit more European, well, before time."

Nonetheless, since the summer, when the high cost of "Europe" began to sink in, Signor Prodi has faced outright opposition and street protests. The 1997 budget, designed to cut \$40 billion (22 billion) off the huge public deficit, has been greeted by a storm of criticism.

La Stampa said: "If we had known what the cost of joining the single currency would be, we would have thought about it more carefully."

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Anatole Kalitsky, page 29

Lukashenko sets sights on 'Slavic superstate' dream

FROM RICHARD BEESTON IN MINSK

THE President of Belarus, yesterday celebrated his landslide victory in Sunday's referendum which, in effect, granted the autocratic leader one-man rule over the country into the next century.

In spite of complaints by monitors about an unfair campaign and voting irregularities, the Electoral Commission said that more than 70 per cent of the electorate backed the young and brash Aleksandr Lukashenko in his attempt for greater power.

Experts agree that Mr Lukashenko, 42, is a clever and ambitious populist politician who has achieved a remarkable rise to power from his humble beginnings as a collective-farm leader.

Yesterday, for instance, he told the nation that they "lived in a small island of order and stability in an ocean of chaos and anarchy" which prevailed in the rest of the former Soviet Union, an impression many of his countrymen share.

But opinions are divided over whether his aggressive and confrontational style of leadership is simply part of his image or a deeper, more sinister side of his character.

Much has been made about his remarks to a German newspaper in which he praised Hitler for "improving German society due to his strong rule". Mr Lukashenko also suggested that Belarus, which lost one quarter of its population in the Second World War, needed the same type of leadership.

KEY members of the Communist-dominated lower house of parliament threatened President Yeltsin with impeachment yesterday when it looked like they would be voted out of office.

Opposition deputies said that by ordering the withdrawal of the last remaining troops from the breakaway republic, the President had betrayed Russian statehood.

"We are witnessing the beginning of the breakup of Russia," said Viktor Ilyukhin, a nationalist, who heads the security committee in the state Duma. "This is sufficient to initiate impeachment proceedings against the President."

It will be impossible to carry through the impeachment procedure. It requires a two-thirds majority in the Duma and confirmation by the upper house of parliament, the Federation Council, after proof has been established of "state treason or the committing of a heavy crime" by both the Supreme Court and the Constitutional Court.

The Communists' plans suggest they may be trying to attract elements in the armed forces to a new idea, stopping the supposed threat of Chechnya seceding from the federation. The tactic suggests desperation on the part of a political opposition that has been shut out of power for four years by Mr Yeltsin's re-election and has few levers of influence.

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Mr Yeltsin recently set up a new "conservative council" that includes Gennadi Selznyov, the Communist Speaker of the Duma, but Mr Selznyov complained last night that the latest Chechen peace deal had not been discussed at last week's meeting of the council.

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Rwandans gripped by fear as Hutus return from Zaire

FROM SAM KILEY IN TABA

ELIZABETH, a Hutu, stared in terror as her fellow tribesmen walked back into town. Married to a Tutsi who was killed in the 1994 genocide, she had lived in fear of reprisals for her refusal to participate. Yesterday, she watched some of the most notorious killers return home.

Taba, 20 miles south of Kigali, the Rwandan capital, was the scene of horrible crimes when Hutu extremists murdered a million Tutsis and Hutu moderates. The atrocities included mass murder and the systematic gang rapes and abductions of Tutsi women.

Its former burgomestre (mayor), Jean Paul Akeyesu, is being held in a United Nations jail in Arusha, charged with genocide and crimes against humanity. Elizabeth, who will be a witness for the prosecution, has been threatened repeatedly by Hutus in Taba. Now that about 200 other

since the genocide." In 1994 her own brothers slaughtered three of her children because they looked like their father. Yesterday she was brought face to face with men she saw kill her friends and family.

"I know some of these men. They are killers. Now where can I live? I want to testify in Arusha [the Tanzanian location of the UN genocide trials] but I am sure I won't live long enough," she said, gesturing secretly at a group of Hutu refugees who had walked into the village earlier with their families.

She was not the only frightened person in a village gripped by silent fear. Some Hutus walked in fearing denunciation as killers. Tutsi survivors, living in a compound under armed guard because they dare not return home for fear of Hutu neighbours already back in the country, watched them arrive knowing that the genocide



A refugee carries her child towards the Rwandan border yesterday after leaving her forest hideout in Zaire

was not yet over. "We are still afraid of the *interahamwe* (the Hutu militia). They have continued to kill us over the past two years and now more are coming into town," said Joseph Habimana, 38, one of 200 Tutsis who live under guard.

As he spoke, Rosanne and

Georges, tugging behind them Philippe, five, arrived in the village and joined other Hutu returnees in a small group next to the Tutsi compound. The couple did not want to talk much. Both sweated and panted in fear as Tutsis they knew eyed them across a few yards of grass. Georges stared at the

ground, anxious not to catch the eyes of an old neighbour. Rwanda is already holding 85,000 alleged killers in overcrowded jails. None has come to trial, because the judicial system was wiped out with the Tutsis.

By supporting rebels who cleared out North Kivu's Hutu

Chiluba acts to gag poll monitors

BY JAN RAATH

PRESIDENT CHILUBA of Zambia, within days of his landslide election victory, ordered the arrest of the heads of two independent, Western-funded monitoring groups which said the electoral process was not free or fair.

Police were holding documents and equipment seized in a raid on Sunday on the offices of the Inter-Africa Network for Human Rights, and the Zambia Independent Monitoring Team. The two organisations are key members of the alliance of 18 poll monitoring groups that accused Mr Chiluba's ruling Movement for Multiparty Democracy of creating "a climate of uncertainty" around the voting last Monday.

Ngande Mwansijji, the chairman of the alliance, the Convivence for a Clean Campaign, and Alfred Zulu, head of the monitoring team, were freed on Sunday after being questioned by police. Three officials of the opposition Zambia Democratic Congress are said to have gone into hiding.

Paris attacks delay over relief troops

BY MICHAEL EVANS, DEFENCE CORRESPONDENT

FRANCE criticised the international community yesterday for failing to decide whether to send a multinational force to Zaire to help to rescue thousands of refugees.

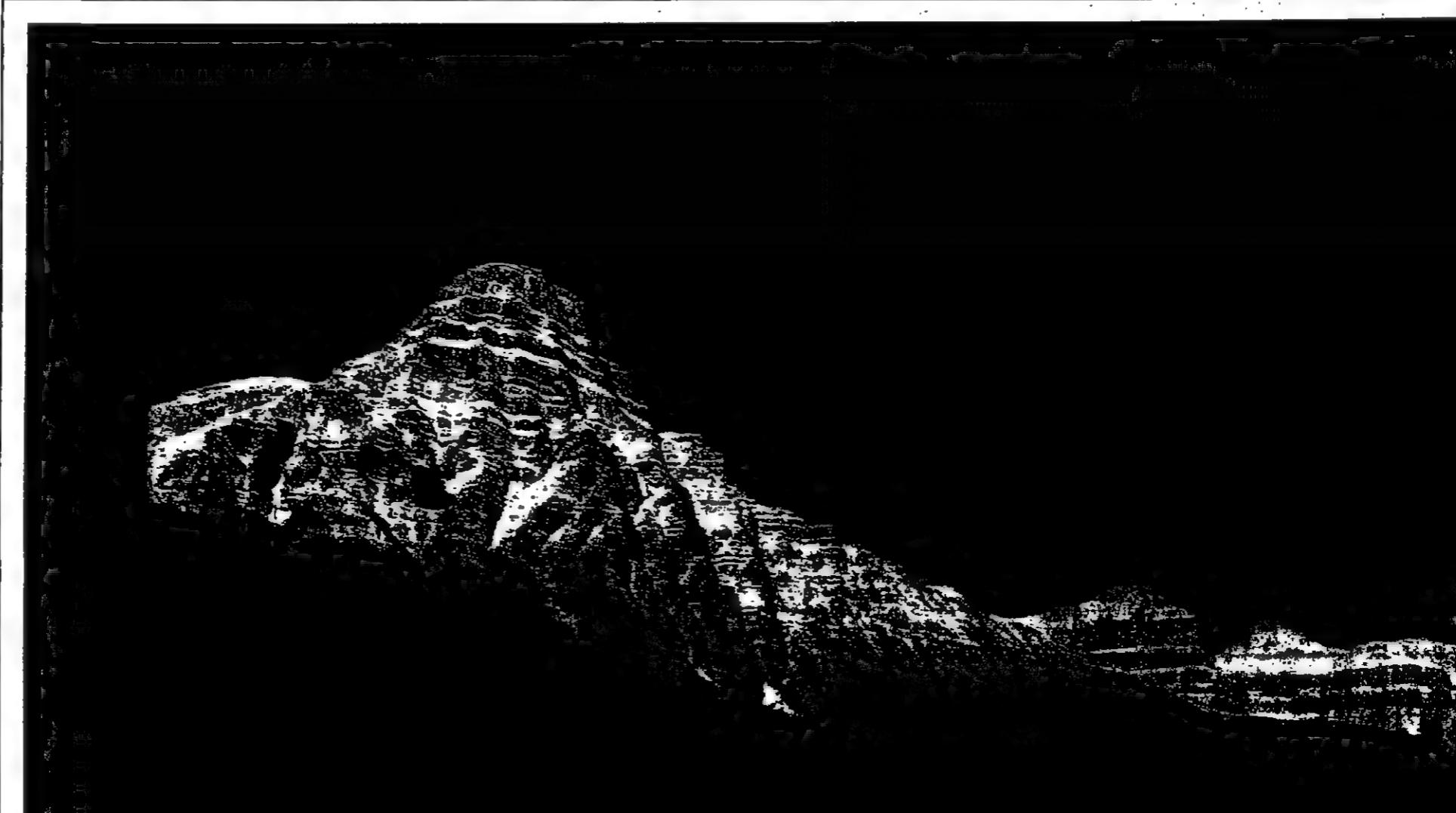
As a steering committee met last night at the United Nations in New York to consider military options outlined in Stuttgart during the weekend, Hervé de Charette, the French Foreign Minister, was critical of the delay in deploying a humanitarian force.

Speaking in Brussels, where he was attending a meeting of European Union foreign ministers, he said: "It is because they are African that the international community is less interested?" He added: "It is urgent. The French position is that the international force... is more than ever necessary."

Despite his remarks, many countries that had offered troops are now admitting the mission is becoming increasingly difficult to define.

The Stuttgart meeting underlined the importance of restricting any multinational effort to aid work, but the fear is that intervention could lead to confrontation with rebel militia.

In Manila, Jean Chrétien, the Prime Minister of Canada, which has offered to lead a multinational force, said military intervention might



Crisis in Central Africa



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When your hand is a deadly enemy

Anjana Ahuja reports on a bizarre syndrome

The terror is unbelievable. It stalks you when you are alone or in company, when you are awake or asleep. This is the nightmare of alien hand syndrome, where one hand takes on a life of its own. "Sometimes I think it has eyes," says Larry, one sufferer. "It's almost like it knows where it's going. It hunts for my other hand, and it is always working for destruction."

The bizarre condition has an intriguing history but no known cure as shown in *Alien Hand*, a documentary for the Discovery channel (tonight, 8pm). Alien hand syndrome was first noted in 1908 by the German neurologist Kurt Goldstein, when a woman patient confided that she could not sleep for fear of being strangled by her own left hand. However, Goldstein's investigations were hampered by the fact that little was known about the brain.

Decades later, a young scientist at the California Institute of Technology began some revolutionary animal experiments. Roger Sperry hoped to uncover the role of the corpus callosum, a large central portion of brain matter thought to hold the two hemispheres together. He split this part of the brain in cats and monkeys, and at first noted nothing amiss. Experiments later showed that when monkeys were shown signals to one eye, they were unable to respond appropriately with their opposite hand. In other words, animals with split brains could no longer coordinate separate sides of the body.

Sperry then met Joe Bogen, a neurosurgeon looking for a way of alleviating severe epilepsy. Bogen hit upon a radical idea — seizures (electrical storms in the brain) could be controlled by splitting the brain and containing the seizure in one hemisphere. But the risks were incredible — what would such a person be like?

Encouraged by Sperry's experiments, Bogen operated on ten patients in the early Sixties. Each operation entailed severing 200 million nerves in the corpus callosum. In nine out of ten cases, the seizures improved. For a while, the patients' left hands (for some strange reason, the left hand is usually affected) came "alive". However, for most patients the symptoms disappeared after several months.

"It's possible that the brain reconnected itself," says Dr Todd Feinberg, a neuropsychiatrist at the Beth Israel Medical Centre in New York. Dr Feinberg estimates there are about 100 cases of alien hand syndrome in the world, making it extremely rare. Some are Alzheimer's sufferers, some are severe epileptics who underwent surgery and others have been brain-damaged by stroke. Dr Feinberg says: "In most cases the syndrome disappears, but in the others we don't know of any therapy or medication that works."

Damaged children must be adopted or fostered as a matter of urgency, says Karen Irving

Adoption touches the lives of many more people than is commonly realised. Since 1926, nearly one million children have been adopted.

The topic is rarely out of the news, providing the media with endless stories — and a handy paddle with which to beat social workers, who are perceived as at best inept, or at worst malevolent, depriving worthy citizens of their right to parenthood.

As a professional in the field for many years I find myself amazed at the contrast between the public perception of adoption as mirrored in the media and the reality as I see it in the case files of the brutalised children for whom mine and other adoption agencies struggle to find families today.

In the real world of adoption these are the facts: adoption numbers have declined dramatically. In 1968, 25,000 children were adopted. In 1993, 7,000 children and of those more than half were adopted by their step-parent. The number of babies adopted throughout the 1990s was well under 1,000 per year.

Adoptions of older children in care have increased. In 1994, the 2,300 children in local authority care placed for adoption represented 5 per cent of all children in care. This compares with only 3 per cent of all children in care in 1991.

Who are these children? Most of them have had miserable lives. Some have been subjected to acts of utter degradation. As I began to write this article, I looked again at the case histories of the 20 children currently referred to our agency for adoption. None of them is the healthy baby often regarded as the most desirable subject for adoption. Five are severely disabled, mentally and physically. But even though one of these is 13, we will almost certainly find loving families to adopt them.

It is the remaining 15 children who trouble me and my colleagues most deeply. These are the children who are traumatised as a result of neglect and who have been assaulted physically and sexually. Most of them will have suffered other, less visible insults. As babies in the womb their developing bodies and minds will have been adversely affected by drugs and alcohol taken by the mother. Recent research shows that babies in the womb are profoundly affected by the conditions experienced by their mother during gestation. The unborn baby is sensitised before birth to the disorganised life experienced by an unsupported, vulnerable, mother. The baby is likely to develop disordered thought processes, hyperactive and have difficulty in concentrating. Such children would be difficult for any parent to manage. But a drug-addicted mother who is also a heavy user of alcohol and who supports her habit by prostitution is not well placed to care for a baby who cannot be content because his brain has been damaged. Worse, such a child will often witness acts of sex and violence and be at risk.

The child may remain in a dangerous home for several years. Natural law and public law requires that every possible effort be made to keep the child with his family of origin. Heroic efforts are often made to support parents' attempts to keep their children. And there are success stories. But for some children, the fight to keep them at home compounds the damage they have experienced. The older the child, the harder it is to find good parents to adopt. So damaged are some of the children that they are beyond family help. We know that those children, if they are to survive, must be contained and receive therapy in well managed, well resourced residential units. The chances of them getting the right place are slim.

What makes a child as young as five or six uncontrollable, unreachable, dangerous to himself and others? I do not know what has happened to some of the children whose files I read.

Mark has witnessed extensive violence between his mother and stepfather who were often high on solvents and



Adoption figures have declined dramatically. The children who are left have had lives traumatised by neglect and abuse and are often beyond family help

The lost children

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Mark has witnessed extensive violence between his mother and stepfather who were often high on solvents and

alcohol. He has been hit, locked in cupboards, tortured and forced to participate in the sexual activities of his parents and visitors. Mark never wants to return home. In response to the traumatic events of his life, he behaves in ways that are unfamiliar and alarming to the public. He has nightmares. He urinates in his bedroom. He rolls his pants and hides them behind the radiator. He lies about everything, and he steals constantly. He masturbates in public. He makes sexual approaches to younger children. At the table he grabs at food and gorges it, then sometimes vomits it up. He cannot be left alone with small children or animals. Mark is nine years old.

We know that some children with

experiences such as Mark's will go on to

become aggressive adults who will

moist and corrupt children within their

orbit. But many foster and adoptive

families can help such damaged children — if they are told what to expect, trained to deal with it and supported professionally. The families need to be paid allowances that reflect the importance of their task. They need paid time off. Other children need preparation to understand what it will mean to have a needy child in their home.

In America there is no shortage of families to foster-adopt. They feel that because the children are very young, there is time to help them.

There are obvious risks. Some argue that the scales are balanced in favour of the foster-adopt family. On the other hand, there may be benefits to the child, the mother and to the foster-adopt family if the processes are properly handled by professionals who include the mother in the decisions. To set up such schemes in Britain would require money, time and energy — but unless the step is taken, it may be too late for a generation abituted beyond help.

• Karen Irving is the director of Peans for Children, specialist family placement agency

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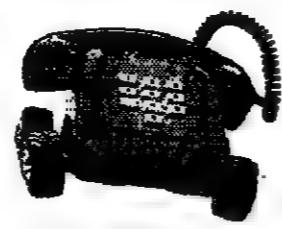
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CHANGING TIMES

I left Oxford and joined the circus

When I was younger, I wanted to be a monkey trained in a circus. Growing up within the cosy parameters of a north Oxford garden and the rarified society of academics and artists, I had this thing about monkeys, and circuses too.

Then fate took a hand. My brother married a girl whose American cousin founded a circus, Circus Flora. Her brother, Gerald, went to work for them as a set painter, fell in love with the elephant and has never come home.

When I was 18, Gerald offered me a job with Circus Flora. The pastoral dream that my family had lived after moving from Oxford to the country had just been shattered. We had had it all: Shetland ponies in the kitchen at teatime, summer evenings in the hay field, hound puppies and bantam chicks, skating by candlelight on the frozen moat.

The year I left school, Mum fell off her horse and was in a coma for two months, suffering acute brain damage. My childhood was suddenly and irredeemably over. The following year, I joined Circus Flora, on a trip to the United States for a month before going to Oxford.

I was amazed by what I saw: "These people of many nationalities, they all live together as a family and help each other. I feel that this is Utopia..." I gushed in my diary. America was hot, jolly and wild. I went on an overnight journey with some American roustabouts to deliver a trailer to a circus wintering on a police airfield in Brooklyn. We arrived in the early morning and the sun was shining through the fog, lighting the side of the starry tent and the flanks of some Arab ponies, catching too on the blades of the police helicopters that were all around us in the air.

I arrived back in England with a spanner in my back pocket, a tape of the show music and a handful of sawdust bound in a shred of the clown's bellion. Sleary, the old man of the circus in Dickens' *Hard Times*, was the only literary hero I needed at Oxford: "People must be smothered if they can't always be a working, nor yet a learning. They must be smothered. Do the wise thing and the kind thing, too, thquire, and make the better of us vagabonds, not the world."

I wrote my first essay on this text. It was a good essay and it must have falsely raised my tutor's hopes: I was lazy and left Oxford with a second. But I knew what I wanted to do and I thought it would be easy. I wanted to join the circus.

My view of circus people is I had seen them in America, was verified by *Hard Times* where Dickens talks about them having "a remarkable gentleness and childlessness... a special impudence for any kind of sharp practice, and an unfailing readiness to help and pity one another, deserving often as much respect and always as much generous condescension as the everyday virtues of any other class of people in the world".

I did not take into account that this was 19th-century England and that the novel sets the circus up as a fairytale contrast to the industrial society, with old Sleary's mercy

Oxford graduate Nell Stroud fulfilled every little girl's fantasy. But, she says, the reality of life in the big top can sometimes be anything but glamorous

antithesis to the dreadful Gadgrind. Nor did I take into account that in America I had been among family, warm and well-paid. Everyone falls from innocence at some point, and I hit the ground hard.

Through ringing box-office numbers, I soon found work as a circus groom. I joined Richie Richards' Mega Circus in Manchester. I bought a van at an auction and a caravan in a pub for £50.

When I arrived at the ground, an alsatian rattled its chain and barked in front of a caravan with a white Mercedes parked next to it. The caravan had aluminium

what was happening and dragged him from under the wheels. But they had to remove a section of Mr Richards's skull, and I think that his violent temper had something to do with this.

Richie Richards Jr was a clown. He was not a normal circus boy — not robust or bright and sharp. He wanted to educate himself, so he read books about the theatre and made Wildean quips. He wanted to run away but it was a hopeless aspiration. His parents controlled his finances, so he was tied to the circus.

I learnt a lot from him: He

had a heavy blizzard and the ignition key snapped. The AA man thought that I was trying to steal the van. I drove all night to my aunt's farm outside Newcastle, where, caked in elephant muck and my face black with tear-drenched eyeliner, I had a normal family Christmas, fed pheasant by my wonderful aunt.

But I could not forget the circus. I wanted to be a performer. I spent a few months at a circus school — but the people were not like circus people at all. "This is like a first-year drama production at a sixth-form college," my sister wryly observed when she saw the show. I was demoralised. Somewhere, I knew, the picture of the circus I had in my head must exist. I just didn't know where.

And then my luck changed and a new circus arose like a dream over the horizon. In a field behind the beach at Margate was Santus Circus — the real circus of my imagination and fantasy. There was a green and yellow tent, with a star-patterned ring curtain, little spotted ponies, and goats.

Everywhere, art and life collide — the elephant standing in the evening sunshine in front of a lorry painted with circus ponies, and in front of that two clowns looking into the engine of a Land Rover. That night, Ernest Santus, the circus director, offered me a job as the ringmistress.

It's a nerve-racking role. Circus people are sharp dealers in one-liners and off-the-cuff banter, and I found this sharpness of mind and tongue difficult to learn. Welcome to Santus Circus, on a bright afternoon (so bright that the spotlight dazzles you and the audience disappears — are you facing the wrong way?)

Moving across the South of England in slow, midnight convoys, I follow behind the elephant lorry, my car straining to pull the new caravan I had bought from a taxi driver. I have never been so house-proud. It has a shower and soft seats, a huge kitchen table and lights hidden behind helmets. When we stop, through the lace curtains I can see an elephant grazing from the hedge.

There are certain lines that capture the spirit of the circus people — bits of quotes that I learnt in Oxford which I keep remembering: "Their deathless attachment to freedom... their self-esteem and wonderful sympathy... the air they have of people who never knew how it felt to stand in the presence of superiors."

I wish that more people went to the circus. No type of entertainment is more hard-earned, more vigorous. One of the girls stands on her head on a trapeze that is swinging and spinning at the same time, half-lit and the music far away, all arched over by the stretched roof of the tent. Old Sleary was right: make the best of these people.

• Reproduced from the December edition of *Harpers & Queen*



Nell Stroud: in her dream role at the circus at last

I just knew the place of my dreams existed'

taught me the circus jargon. He told me about the big shows of the Fifties when you might find 80 clowns on a show and a circus ground big enough to warrant an internal postal system. I learnt, too, of the gossip about myself: "I was weird, apparently, and a snob. I was also an animal rights protester in disguise. Circus people are understandably paranoid about the animal rights movement, which has all but driven them out of business." I was becoming very tired. There was no time to eat or wash, and a groom is on 24-hour call. All I wanted to do was sleep. The weather turned cold and the tenting was over.

We drove to a scrapyard outside Edinburgh, where we wintered for a month before doing a Christmas season in a hall in the city.

Wintering with a circus is as bleak as it sounds. I was permanently freezing and very lonely. My caravan leaked and my dog shivered. We moved to the halls for the show; I was to ride on one of the elephants dressed in frills and sequins with streaks of liquid eye-liner hurriedly applied between mucking out the lambs and grooming the ponies. The band played *Scotland the Brave*. It was brilliant — the best thing I



Ringmaster Nell Stroud: "It's nerve-racking," she says. "Circus people are sharp dealers in one-liners and banter"



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Revenge of the routiers on Juppé

Gridlocked France cheers the drivers, says Ben Macintyre

The French lorry driver, or *routier*, is a figure deeply embedded in the national mythology: he can cut you up at a roundabout with a surgeon's precision; he eats well, having an entire species of roadside restaurants labelled in his honour; his repertoire of expletives and graphic hand gestures is the envy of his peers from other countries. And when the French lorry driver decides to mount industrial action, the result is organised mayhem on an epic scale — as French motorists, British truckers and the Paris Government are discovering once again.

But perhaps the most remarkable characteristic of the French lorry driver is his enduring popularity. As commuters sat in traffic jams across the country yesterday and competed for dwindling petrol supplies, most appeared to accept the disruption with the placidity of spectators at a well-rehearsed ritual.

Near Cahors, a restaurateur struggled through the jams to cook a vast, steaming paella for striking *routiers*, and at blockades across the country the protesters have been sustained with hot coffee, baguettes and encouragement from the public. France's main union leaders and the opposition Socialists have backed the *routiers*, and a "day of action" has been called for tomorrow to show sympathy and put further pressure on the Government.

This is a baffling spectacle to British eyes. The Conservative MP David Shaw even threatened to come to France to have an "on-the-spot stand-up row" with the French police standing idly by at the roadside. It is hard to imagine a more pointless activity, with the *gendarmes* on the spot, like the rest of France, are watching events with a grave sense of *déjà vu*.

According to the polls 87 per cent of French voters regard the drivers' demands for higher wages, shorter hours and retirement at 55 as "fairly justified". During the truckers' strike of 1992, public support never fell below 60 per cent, even when a blockade of Rungis food market outside Paris led to a fresh fish famine.

It is the drivers' popularity, rather than the inconvenience of their blockade, that has struck fear into the Government and sent it scrambling to mediate a solution. They know the lorry drivers have the potential to ferment chaos on a par with last year's transport stoppage, led by railway workers (or *cheminots*), which paralysed France for 24 days. Like the *cheminots* — still beloved for their role in the Resistance — the *routiers* are seen as quintessential French working men, with the cachet to spearhead industrial unrest on disparate issues in other sectors.

Already unions are circling the wagons, calling for rail, ship, air and other transport workers to show their "solidarity".

The Government has gone to great lengths to avoid another confrontation over its austerity policies aimed at qualifying for economic and

Juppé has now broken the Cresson barrier of dislike

monetary union. The 1997 budget is a pallid thing, demanding only minor cuts in education and relying instead on creative accounting using money from France Telecom to balance the books. But it is a sign of how deeply a general malaise has penetrated French life that the worst bout of industrial unrest this year has erupted in the private sector, in an area the Government did not anticipate plainly dreads and may not be able to control.

On Saturday, President Chirac presided over a vivid display of Gaullist pomp to mark the removal of André Malraux's ashes to the Panthéon in Paris. A televised presidential address is expected within days. But while M Chirac bolsters his presidential image, France is still looking for an effective government. Last week his Prime Minister, Alain Juppé, achieved the dubious distinction of becoming the most unpopular premier in the history of the Fifth Republic, after polls showed he had passed through the record-breaking level of public dislike set by his Socialist predecessor, Edith Cresson.

As France struggles to qualify for EMU with rising unemployment and a wobbling economy, some of the most sacred cows of its political thinking may be heading for slaughter. For 13 years France has insisted that the franc remains pegged to the mark, but last week former President Valéry Giscard d'Estaing, joint-architect of the ERM, argued that the time had come to abandon the *franc fort* policy and deviate.

The Government squealed in union with Bonn, but veteran anti-Maastricht campaigner Philippe Séguin, the canny house Speaker tipped as a possible replacement for M Juppé, strongly endorsed Giscard's views. Rumours of an imminent government reshuffle are rife, and M Juppé's chances of survival may depend on whether he can engineer a swift end to the *routiers*' dispute.

As the Government gingerly prepares to introduce private pension funds in a country almost entirely reliant on the indebted social security system, the issue of retirement benefits is an incendiary one. Last year, rail drivers successfully defended their right to retire at 50, an anachronism left over from coal-shovelling days.

Haulage bosses want the State to pay for the drivers' early retirement, it probably will.

In Britain such disruption would meet with widespread outrage, but behind the drivers stand a range of different grievances: farmers angered by falling beef prices, doctors furious at cuts in welfare, teachers fearing job losses and civil service workers bitterly opposed to cost-cutting in the name of Maastricht.

The *routiers* call their protest "Operation Escargot", designed to slow the nation's traffic to a snail's pace. But as it gathers momentum, M Juppé is grimly aware that he may be facing a heavily loaded runaway vehicle with defective brakes.

ON HIS reappearance in London to film another movie, Tom Cruise is insisting on the respect due him as a Hollywood superstar. Those working on the set of *Eyes Wide Shut*, which Stanley Kubrick has emerged from years of seclusion to direct, claim to have been told that they will be dismissed if they look into his eye.

This is not the first time that Cruise is reported to have behaved in such a manner. On the *Mission: Impossible* set at Pinewood last year, the crew was said to have been advised to look away when the great man approached. Val Kilmer allegedly insisted on similar conditions, and two British extras claim that they were removed from the set of *The Saint* for straying into his sight-line.

Filming of *Eyes Wide Shut* has been taking place near Hyde Park Corner, at the Lanesborough Hotel, where conditions are said to be extremely stringent.

Those in the trade, however, say Cruise's apparent idiosyncrasies are nothing new. Boyd Farrow, editor of the magazine *Screen International* says: "They are so famous that when they get up to do their scene, everybody drops what



The case for taxation

Voters are neither selfish nor stupid: we know that a decent society costs money, and we are ready to pay

It's too late now. The Chancellor will have put away the pocket calculator and locked the box. No pleading will change anything. I am sure there will be an income tax cut (though not a very big one, because, thank God, Kenneth Clarke is not as daft as Nigel Lawson). I am sure his party will be pleased, because they think that tax cuts win elections.

I am equally, gloomily, sure that Labour will then say that they too are pledged to low taxation. Both sides accept the fashionable dictum that in the secret of the voting booth we are all for sale.

Only the Liberal Democrats, quixotic and hopeless, will continue to say that tax wisely spent is a Good Thing. The other politicians will jeer at them for it, and change nothing. Nor will last week's British Social Attitudes survey, which (as usual) returned the finding that well over half of us believe in higher public spending on health and education even if it means higher personal taxes.

"Bah!" scoff the political advisers. "They say that to impress lady politicians. The ballot box proves that they don't mean it. Look at 1970, when Roy Jenkins produced a Budget with no tax bribes, and Labour lost!"

Look at the way Nigel Lawson won in 1987 by knocking tuppence off! Look

at 1992, when the Tory attack on Labour as a high-tax party delivered victory in spite of everything.

Never mind that in 1970 Labour rose in the polls after the Budget, and almost averted defeat. Never mind that in 1987 we were all crazy, drunk on the Great Boom; never mind that in 1992 Neil Kinnock blew it with his terrible triumphalist rally and his doctrinaire policies.

Never mind that there are always other good reasons why elections are won and lost: the mantra says that voters are selfish, voters are short-sighted, voters do not give a damn about the poor, the sick, the old, or other people's children. Voters just want another two hundred quid a year to spend in Ikea. Only by understanding this will you win elections. Give 'em the money!

Do you feel insulted? My own account for years, used to send out with every final tax assessment a parallel calculation of how much more I would have paid under Labour. (He has stopped now; guess why?)

On receiving this piece of unsolicited information I felt an annual surge of irritation: how dare he assume that

as an already quite high earner I

wanted only more money? Personal, disposable money all for me, and let the rest of my country go hang?

I am prepared to bet that this irritation will be shared today and throughout the campaign by a surprisingly large number of people, many of whom would be deeply insulted if you called them "left-wing". These are taxpayers who may have been upset yesterday by the report from the Health Visitors Association, signalling the return of "disease and nutritional defects more commonly associated with Victorian times": widespread child malnutrition, overcrowded, damp accommodation leading to infant pneumonia, TB, rickets. Meanwhile, analysis of government statistics shows that this year 30 per cent of all babies — 215,000 of them — were born into families on means-tested benefits; i.e. very poor families.

These in turn will get pneumonia, perhaps TB, and gastroenteritis from shared, sordid hostel facilities. They will be educated in primary classes which are far too big, in schools run down and depressed by failure and opprobrium. They will become angry and delinquent and find that the established projects which would once have tried to reclaim them — youth clubs, mothers' groups, teenage counselling centres, drug centres — are being closed down for lack of funding (the authorities covering east London announced severe cuts to social programmes only yesterday). Too many of these children will end up sleeping rough, selling their bodies, being murdered or murdered.

We all know that our otherwise affluent (and by world standards, pretty well-managed) society is becoming disfigured by poverty, ignorance and anger on its fringes. We know that this leads to disorder in schools, fear on the streets, and overloading of hospitals and prisons. We are not stupid: we can see

that solutions to this blight — not yet insolubly severe — will cost money. We can also work out that you save money in the long term if you nip social problems in the bud: feed the children and educate them, and support small projects which help carers and the mentally ill and those temporarily overwhelmed by difficulties. A stitch in time saves nine: a steady hand from the strong — the solvent taxpayer — will save that taxpayer in a few years' time from having to pay thousands more in health costs, prison costs, and the expense of policing dirty and dangerous cities.

We live on a complicated, crowded island, and common sense dictates that we cannot regard our incomes as if we were doughty pioneer individuals, each milking our own cow and

digging our own well. We all need decent schools, good medicine, police, playgrounds, roads, sewers, hospitals, community halls, and services to help the deranged and keep them safe from harming us or themselves.

Without these things, the poor are abandoned to chaos and the middle class is trapped in an island of its own money, terrified of falling off.

There are political thinkers who applaud this feeling, and point to "individual responsibility" and good honest terror of the workhouse as our salvation. But it is not comfortable on the middle-class island: not if you struggle with school fees because you are terrible, and private health insurance because your NHS Trust is closing wards and spending your tax-cut twice over on burglar alarms and security lights because the kids down the road have nothing to do and nothing to lose.

To recognise this is not to advocate a nanny state or a socialist Utopia.

There will always be some who build

a higher, prettier, safer island of personal money than the others. But even they can see that it is in their interest for the surrounding lowlands to be safe and healthy. That costs money: not just from personal taxation but from companies whose hill of profit is high (we have, at present, some of the most profitable companies in the world paying some of the lowest tax rates).

There is, of course, a flaw in my argument. In order to be happy about confiding our money to government to spend on our behalf, we have to believe that they will use it wisely. Unfortunately the last vestiges of that confidence have gone: nobody trusts government. There is a widespread perception that "they" will blow the money, and everyone has their own favourite allegation of government waste: stupid advertising campaigns, dithering around getting in and out of the ERM, setting up an unwelcome poll tax and dismantling it again, extremely expensive judicial inquiries into their own study conduct, buying too many Euro-fighters, ideologically fanatical privatisations, avoidable wars. It is significant that almost alone among lottery nations, Britain decided not to entrust the profits to government, but set up panels of ragbag *bien pensants* to hand the money out. We don't trust government: in that sense, those who say that we will be selfish in the secrecy of the polling booth may have a point.

But it makes no sense to insist, as Norman Lamont did yesterday, that "it's still taxes, stupid", and that the nation warmly applauds all public spending cuts. What we need, and never get, is a party which we consider honest and which will say: "We shall undoubtedly have to put up income tax by a penny or two, more for the highest earners, and commercial taxes as well. But we will spend the money carefully, where it is most needed, and nobody shall be without a chance to better themselves."

Well, say the cynics, the Lib Dems keep saying that and they never win. Do they? Well, no. Not nationally, because our first-past-the-post system forces us to be a nation of tactical voters, terrified of letting in the big enemy (whatever) through voting for the third party. But look at local government: given a chance that it might get actual power, Joe Voter often backs the only party which admits the need to tax and spend.

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SAFETY VALVE

Clarke has released the head of steam — for a while

At the end of last week parliamentarians of all shades of opinion were seething about the Government's refusal to allow a debate on the single currency. It says something about the Administration's misreading of its position that Kenneth Clarke claimed yesterday to have been brought to the dispatch box by weekend newspaper reports rather than pressure from the House. The Chancellor's statement and the subsequent question and answer session nonetheless managed to take some steam out of a chamber in danger of overheating.

Despite his protestations about enjoying parliamentary debate, Mr Clarke is on precarious ground when talking about the single currency in the Commons. Forced to speak with his back to the main audience, he knows that the majority of his backbenchers are behind him only in the literal sense. Many do not trust him to negotiate firmly enough on their behalf at European Council meetings. If they do not have faith in him, what hope is there for the voter?

He was helped yesterday by the Speaker, who chose a disproportionate number of Euro-enthusiasts to speak, giving the impression that opinion among the Tories was finely balanced. He helped himself by speaking in a much more conciliatory tone than usual. Most promising was his reply to John Redwood's request that he demand written confirmation from Britain's partners that this country's economic policy would not be determined by Brussels should it decide to remain outside the single currency. Far from brushing off Mr Redwood's request, Mr Clarke undertook to try to come back with "the best possible text" which would be "copper-bottomed".

This did not entirely square with the Chancellor's answer to Bill Cash's demand that he veto any agreement until such a written confirmation had been delivered. "We do have to address what is exactly being proposed," said Mr Clarke, "not what we fancy being proposed or what we would like

to be proposed." If we want other states to include in the documentation a copper-bottomed guarantee, we have to propose it ourselves. Mr Clarke has agreed to re-open negotiations to strengthen the texts in Britain's favour. He can hardly return to the House with nothing to show for his efforts.

Any success he may have will set an important precedent since further legal texts bearing on Britain's freedom of manoeuvre will follow in the months to come. The lesson of the past few years in Europe is that, when Britain tries to exercise an opt-out, measures are introduced by stealth to reduce the value of that opt-out. Other European countries have a strong interest in trying to make life uncomfortable for Britain outside EMU. The more this country takes advantage of its flexibility — on interest rates, exchange rates or borrowing — the stronger will be the pressure to find a way to inflict a punishment. It is imperative, therefore, that the wording of the agreement on the single currency is watertight, so unambiguous that the European Court cannot possibly interpret it in a way that would be detrimental to British interests.

If Mr Clarke goes to his Ecofin meeting next Monday with this intention paramount in his mind, then the absence of a proper debate between now and then will not be quite so serious. Indeed, there is some merit in the House being able to debate what the Chancellor brings back from Dublin rather than what it hopes he might achieve.

But a sour smell still hangs over this episode. MPs are rightly fearful that the Government will enter into an agreement binding on future administrations without their having had a chance to express their opinion on a meaningful motion. Even now, after all the fuss, there will be only an "extended" adjournment debate on the matter. A subject that will be much more important to Britain's long-term economic future than today's Budget deserves better than that.

THE ANGLICAN AGENDA

Organisation and other tasks for the General Synod

In the last decade the introduction of women priests has dominated and divided the Anglican faith. One of the many consequences is that other matters concerning the working of the Church could not receive full attention. This oversight has to be rectified by the General Synod this week. Such concentration is apt as the Church may be enjoying a brief respite before the vexed status of homosexuality within its ranks provokes another period of tumult.

The challenges facing the synod are daunting. The number of full-time stipendiary clergy will drop to little more than 9,000 by the end of the decade, a fall of nearly 20 per cent in ten years. As a result, for the first time in its history, the number of retired clergy now exceeds those actively preaching. This will place further financial burdens on the dioceses and parishes who will be expected to meet 90 per cent of the expense of parochial ministry. Meanwhile, attendances on Sundays have stabilised at unsatisfactorily low levels.

In response, fundamental changes will be considered over the next few days. The most important concern the recommendations of the Turnbull Commission on the Organisation of the Church and the Howe Commission on Cathedrals. Advocates believe they will modernise the structure of Anglicanism. In the process present traits, an extreme distrust of leadership and excessive enthusiasm for committees, might be mitigated. Opponents question whether the core of the Church's crisis lies in these areas and are deeply suspicious of the bureaucracy and centralism implicit in these schemes. The Turnbull reforms stress the "urgent

need" to reshape institutions and provide a single focus of leadership and responsibility. The solution offered is an Archbishop's Council, comprising no more than twenty members, that would in practice serve as an Anglican cabinet. The chief casualty would be the Church Commissioners who have been left vulnerable by their, hardly, unique misfortunes on the property market in the 1980s. This is a sharp switch from 25 years of ever greater devolution of authority within the Church.

The Howe deliberations venture into equally treacherous territory. They would end traditional arrangements by which England's cathedrals are run by deans and chapters constrained by ancient statute. In its place the canons would be responsible to new councils chaired by an appointee of the bishop. This proposal has gathered momentum because of embarrassing feuds at Lincoln and Hereford cathedrals. It would represent a sizeable increase in the influence of bishops in some cases, in others a severe reduction in laity power. Many in the synod are not persuaded that the specific problems recently encountered justify such a reform.

This synod is open to criticism. Re-organisation alone will not make Anglicanism more relevant. While synod debates will be held on racism in the Church, the debt burden for developing countries, and animal welfare, the enormous public interest in the moral climate of modern Britain, ignited initially by Frances Lawrence, will receive little mention. The Church of England must address more than internal administration if it wants to restore its proper standing in the life of the nation.

HOPES AND HOMES

The State is no longer housebound

There are few more telling snapshots revealing the changes of the past fifteen years in British life than the state of debate about housing. The Environment Secretary John Gummer yesterday launched a consultation paper on where Britain's new houses should go: in the cities or in the countryside. The private-sector developers, keen to site new houses in green fields, and the rural lobbyists, eager to make new houses sprout from the decay of existing cities, are so wrapped up in their argument that they may not have noticed how much the last years of the 20th century differ from the preceding age.

From the moment that the industrial revolution sucked families from the farm fields to the smokestacks, British governments have had to worry about whether there were enough houses. Throughout the first half of this century, Labour and Liberal politicians competed to show that they would build more modern homes than their rivals, gradually taking over from philanthropic industrialists who built garden cities and state-of-the-art housing estates.

The Second World War released pent-up hopes of social improvement. Bombing had wrecked many inner cities. Council house waiting lists stretched 20 years into the future in the early 1950s. As a young MP, Denis Healey remembers a man arriving at his weekly constituency surgery with a jam jar full of stugs which he had collected from the slimy walls of his council flat. The

Conservative Party, inspired by the idea of "property-owning democracy", joined the competition. No election campaigner of the 1950s or 1960s spoke for long without mentioning his party's manifesto commitment on new housing "starts".

Mr Gummer is still wrestling with too few houses for too many people. But he works free from the burden of unrealistic expectation. The State may have a role in making strategic environmental choices which the market will not make wisely; a pump may be primed here or there. People still live in poor and degrading houses. But the public sector is not expected to lift every rod and mix every batch of concrete. Spending on council housing is failing to under a third of what it was in 1979. Opposition parties do not pretend that they will reverse this change, but concentrate on ideas about reviving the rented sector.

That profound shift in attitude frees government to look to its real responsibilities and encourage new thinking. Longer lives, more divorces and changing patterns of work mean that Britain will have 4.4 million more households in the year 2016. Mr Gummer's core conclusion is that this building must not all occur in what is now countryside and that, with effort and imagination, land can be used inside cities. Right, while 20th century governments have striven to put a roof over our heads, those in the next century must protect the endangered green beyond the city's edge.

What's in a name?

From Mrs Catherine Money

Sir, I was born with a surname that was constantly misspelt and mispronounced (letters, November 14, 21). My mother urged me during my formative years to marry a "better surname". She also constantly extolled the virtues of love, companionship, integrity and fidelity as being more valuable than the material trappings of life.

I reckon, however, that I hit the jackpot.

Yours faithfully,
CATHERINE MONEY (née Wike),
Biddulph Farm,
Chobham, Woking, Surrey.

November 21.

A Belfast summer

From Dr Allan H. Fawcett

Sir, How idyllic it is for the dates of the Cambridge summer term to be determined by the dates of sports meetings at Goodwood and Henley (letter, November 22). My year is determined by the date of the 12th of July.

Yours faithfully,
ALLAN FAWCETT,
The Queen's University of Belfast,
School of Chemistry,
David Keir Building, Belfast.

November 22.

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

1 Pennington Street, London E1 9KN Telephone 0171-782 5000

Anger at contempt for Parliament

From Mr Alan Howarth, MP for Stratford-on-Avon (Labour)

Sir, It is not only in respect of crucial European regulations that the Government shows its contempt for Parliament.

In January this year ministers bulldozed through the House of Commons 160 pages of regulations under the Jobseekers Act — the real substance of this legislation — along with regulations under four other statutes, all in a procedure which does not permit amendments, in three and a quarter hours.

The Department for Social Security has taken to implementing regulations before they have even been debated by Parliament. Today regulations changing the way earnings are calculated in the assessment of social security benefits will take effect before they have been subject to any parliamentary scrutiny.

This follows equally high-handed behaviour over amendments to social security appeals procedures, where ministers made consultation with the public as much a mockery as they make parliamentary procedure. They issued a consultation document, with consultation to conclude on October 25, but they laid the new regulations on September 27, while the House was in recess, and brought them into effect on October 21; the regulations were not debated by Parliament until November 7.

The Parliamentary Under Secretary sought to argue that these regulations were of minor import, but their effect will be to make it significantly less likely that appellants will receive justice.

The Government takes it so much for granted that it will get its way with Parliament that Benefits Agency letters describing changes, as for example on the new Computation of Earnings Regulations, are distributed not only before regulations are scrutinised but without any reference to change being subject to parliamentary approval.

Yours faithfully,
ALAN HOWARTH,
House of Commons.
November 23.

Channel Tunnel

From the Managing Director of the Dover Harbour Board

Sir, You reported (November 22) that the Port of Dover had lost almost half its business to the Channel Tunnel in the past two years. In fact the reduction in traffic through the port since 1994 is about 15 per cent and even without this unfortunate fire the Port of Dover would have handled considerably more lorries, cars and coaches than the tunnel this year.

Yours etc,
JONATHAN SLOGGETT,
Managing Director and Register,
Dover Harbour Board,
Harbour House, Dover, Kent.
November 22.

From Dr Roger R. Dawson

Sir, After air crashes I do not recall hearing calls for a complete redesign of aircraft to withstand the impact of a fall from 35,000 feet, or of a head-on collision at 15,000 feet, or the consequences of an on-board fire while on the ground.

Is there one rule for aircraft and another for freight trains?

Yours sincerely,
ROGER DAWSON,
The Gables, Parsons Hill,
Hollesley, Woodbridge, Suffolk.
November 23.

From Mr Robert Freer

Sir, Perhaps anyone planning a second crossing will now have the foresight to build a bridge.

Yours faithfully,
R. FREER,
14 Alleyn Crescent, SE21.
November 23.

What's in a name?

From Mrs Catherine Money

Sir, We are all no doubt delighted that Bob Monkhouse has got his jokes back (letters, November 19). But may he unwittingly have broken the law in his understandable anxiety?

Section 23 of the Theft Act 1968 provides that it is an offence to advertise for a reward and in doing so to use "any words to the effect that no questions will be asked".

It is a silly law, no doubt, and since

it was designed to stop the activities of

the 18th-century "thief-taker", Jonathan Wild, probably served its

purpose. Has this come for it to be

repealed, perhaps?

Yours faithfully,
A. T. H. SMITH

(Professor of Criminal and Public Laws),
Conville and Caius College,
Cambridge.
November 19.

A Belfast summer

From Dr Allan H. Fawcett

Sir, How idyllic it is for the dates of the Cambridge summer term to be determined by the dates of sports meetings at Goodwood and Henley (letter, November 22). My year is determined by the date of the 12th of July.

Yours faithfully,
ALLAN FAWCETT,
The Queen's University of Belfast,
School of Chemistry,
David Keir Building, Belfast.

November 22.

US 'blow' to UK aerospace industry

From Mr Mark Hendrick,
MP for Lancashire Central
(Socialist Group [Labour])

Sir, The decision by the United States Department of Defense not to further consider the bid by the McDonnell Douglas-led consortium (which includes British Aerospace) to build the Joint Strike Fighter aircraft (JSF) is a hammer blow to the UK and to UK industry.

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Survey finds banks best for cash not advice

NEVER mind the advice, just hand over the cash is the attitude of most small businesses towards their banks, according to a report by the Business Solutions Show (Rodney Hobson writes).

Research among those who attended the exhibition at Olympia indicated that entrepreneurs trust their accountants most when it comes to seeking business advice. The bank manager ranks after chambers of trade and Business Links. However, small businesses have no hesitation in turning to their bank managers for the funds they need to finance growth. A bank loan or overdraft was favoured by 42 per cent of those attending the show. Private investors, preferred by 28 per cent, were the next favoured source.

Although many small businesses have gone to the wall when banks have called in overdrafts, the survivors still shun factoring, a more secure means of raising finance. Many regard it as too expensive and even companies with turnover of more than £100,000 — well above the threshold for most factoring companies — assumed that they were too small.

Philip Lowry, events director for EPS Events, organiser of the Business Solutions show, believes the financial services community is still failing to reach the lucrative small and medium enterprise sector, which includes 3.8 million businesses.

He says: "The UK's smaller businesses evidently feel comfortable using banks as financial mainstays yet they do not rate them as sounding boards for useful business advice. Yet banks have more to offer the sector than merely a financial crutch in times of need."



How misfortune turned a pastime into a business

Angler rises to challenge

BY RODNEY HOBSON

Two possible careers were wiped out in a moment when David Packwood, goalkeeper, leapt for a high ball and tore ligaments in his knee.

Then 24, Mr Packwood was already a semi-professional on Tottenham Hotspur's watch-list, as well as a police officer. The injury put paid to both.

Eighteen months ago, after ten years out of work and 17 operations, he took the plunge and opened a shop for anglers called The Bait Box in the High Street at Evesham.

He says: "Angling has always been a hobby of mine and the Evesham area, with the Severn and Avon close by, is a magnet for anglers."

He already had some experience in retailing from helping in a friend's shop, but no business expertise, and his was the first enterprise to benefit from the planned business start-up programme run by Hereford and Worcester Training and Enterprise Council (Hawtree).

Apart from learning about VAT, retail legislation, finance and marketing, he received a grant that he invested in stock and refrigeration equipment. He says: "The course was invaluable and the back-up has been good."

Those lessons proved useful when The Bait Box struck an early crisis: the landlord went bust and the liquidator wanted to sell the shop. Mr Packwood borrowed from his in-laws and raised a mortgage on the shop.

"Having to buy the building put a lot of strain on my resources, but the High Street location was a good one," he says.

Hawtree had drummed into me that location was very important. If I hadn't bought the shop someone



David Packwood feels he was well prepared for setting up shop and overcoming an early crisis

else would have got a ready-made business and I would have seen 12 months of hard work go down the drain. At least now my destiny is in my own hands."

Fishing is an all-year activity and there is always a flow of local

and visiting anglers looking for help and advice, along with rods, accessories and bait.

Mr Packwood values highly the full backing of his partner: "In summer I come into the shop at 8am and I do not finish until 11pm.

There is no way that I could do the books as well. I could not carry on without the support of my wife, Joanne. You have both got to pull in the same direction — otherwise you will sink very quickly."

□ *The Bait Box is on 01386 442955.*

□

BRIEFINGS

A free seminar on the impact of the Budget on small and medium-size businesses will be held by Business Link Surrey at The Guildhall, Guildford, on Thursday. To reserve a place call Francesca Ayers on 0345 494040.

□

Winners of the first competition for Business Link advisers, sponsored by Barclays Bank, were Joe Ward, of St Helens, in the individ-

ual section and Martin Mason and Richard Shacklock, of Coventry and Warwickshire. In the team section, Businesses voted for advisers who had helped them.

□ Barclays Bank is extending its free banking for start-up business-

es from 12 to 18 months provided one of the proprietors holds a personal account with the bank.

□ Clark Whitehill, the firm of chartered accountants, is staging its first major conference for family and owner-managed busi-

nesses on January 31. The key speaker will be Gordon Brown, the Shadow Chancellor. The cost is £199. Contact Centaur Conferences on 0171 434 3711.

□ High-tech companies may form

American partnerships through a

Firms get guide to new technologies

BY SALLY WATTS

A SUPPORT network to advise small companies on new technologies is on offer from the Information Society Initiative. The ISI is an industry-government partnership, backed by 70 major organisations and has £25 million of funding over four years.

As part of ISI's Programme for Business, the first local support centres, staffed by business advisers, opened last week at 19 enterprise agencies. They will provide guidance, training and hands-on experience, enabling small firms to compete in a market in which customers, suppliers, distributors and competitors are increasingly online.

More centres will open early next year; by the end of 1997, 50 should be operating. First services are at Business Links for Somerset, Dorset, Gloucestershire, Thames Valley, Isle of Wight, Greater Manchester, Network (Bolton, Bury, Oldham, Rochdale and Stockport), High Peak, Cumbria, Lincolnshire, Northamptonshire, Leicestershire, London City Partners and Hertfordshire, and the Tees for North and Mid-Cheshire.

The guides are produced by the Department of Trade and Industry, which runs ISI, and follow a 56-page free guide, *Doing Business in the Information Society*. To stimulate use of electronic communication, ISI operates a range of awards. Creativity awards will help firms in such fields as film production, design and music.

□ *ISI Infoline: 0345 152000*

Rural aid plan in Wales

BY IOLA SMITH

SMALL towns in rural Wales will receive £800,000 of European investment over the next three years under the Market Towns Initiative. This scheme was first mooted in the Government White Paper, *A Working Countryside for Wales*, but it is only this month that it is being officially launched.

Its intention is to revitalise small communities by getting local people to devise regeneration projects. Grants of up to £90,000 from the European Regional De-

velopment Fund will be available for each town with a population above 500. "We recognise the importance of small towns to both the economic and social fabric of Mid Wales," said the scheme's instigator, John Taylor, chief executive of the Development Board for Rural Wales, said. "We want to stimulate enterprising groups to come up with ideas that will play to the strengths of towns and help communities to plan for a prosperous future."

The Development Board for Rural Wales will help local groups to draw up an action plan and will also advise on potential follow-up sources of funding, such as the Welsh Office, the National Lottery and the private sector.

Between now and Christmas seminars and workshops will be set up across rural Wales to inform local people of the initiative's opportunities. Communities have until February 21 to devise programmes of action and the first towns to receive grant aid will be selected in March.

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Court of Appeal

Law Report November 26 1996

Court of Appeal

Service on business address is valid

Robertson v Banham & Co [a Firm]

Before Lord Justice Roch and Mr Justice Connell

Judgment October 31

Service of proceedings on a professional basis at his "usual or last known address" meant his usual or last known business address. Accordingly, putting a writ in an envelope addressed personally to a partner in a firm of solicitors, through a letter-box at his last known business address would be proper service under Order 81, rule 30(a) and Order 10, rule 12(b) of the Rules of the Supreme Court.

The Court of Appeal so stated allowing an appeal by the plaintiff, Mrs Felicity Robertson, from a decision of Mr Douglas Day QC, sitting as a deputy High Court judge, given on November 11, 1994. The judge, reversing the earlier decision of a master, had held that service of a writ by the plaintiff on the defendant firm, Banham & Co, was not valid, and that therefore the judgment in default of defence was obtained "irregularly and should be set aside".

By writ dated January 13, 1994, the plaintiff had started an action against two solicitors, Mr Ian Southward and Mr George Banham, who had practised as Banham & Co at The Cheesemonger's Market, Salisbury.

On January 14, 1994 the plaintiff put the envelope containing the writ addressed to "Ian Southward" through the letter-box of the premises of the Griffiths Banham Partnership at Griffin House, Salisbury. Later that morning the envelope and its contents came to the attention of Mr Southward who then informed his professional negligence insurers.

Unknown to the plaintiff, as at January 13 and 14, 1994, the firm of Banham & Co had been dissolved, Mr Banham going into retirement. Consequently, service had been duly effected on January 14, pursuant to the Rules of the Supreme Court. But for the decision of the Court of Appeal in *Marsden v Kingwill Wards* [1992] 2 All ER 259, his Lordship would have accepted that submission.

Services of originating process which were to be used in the name of the firm was governed by Order 81, rule 3 unless the particular knowledge of the plaintiff, being described before an action against the firm was begun; see Order 81, rule 39.

Order 81, rule 3 enabled a writ suing partners in the name of the firm to be served in three ways so as to be deemed due service on the firm.

The first method was by service on any one or more of the partners, which might be personal service

on the partner or in accordance with Order 10, rule 12.

The second was service at the principal place of business of the partnership within the jurisdiction on any person having at the time of service the control or management of the partnership business. That was service on all the partners although the person served might not be a partner.

Mr Robert Denman for the plaintiff, Mr Patrick Lawrence for the defendants.

LODGE JUSTICE ROCH said that the issue before the master and the judge was whether the judgment of February had been regularly obtained by the plaintiff. If the writ was duly served on Mr Southward on January 14, then it was, if the writ was not duly served until Mr Southward entered an appearance on January 24, then the judgment in default of defence was obtained "irregularly and should be set aside".

Service of the writ was regularly obtained by the plaintiff on one of the partners, Mr Southward, on January 14. That in itself established the question whether the events of January 14 constituted due service on Mr Southward under Order 10, rule 12(b).

Certain matters had been established by decisions of the Court of Appeal in respect of those rules, including that "last known address" meant the defendant's last address known to the plaintiff.

With the principle that the originating process should be brought to the attention of the defendant, what was meant by "usual or last known address"? Was that phrase to be confined to residential addresses? Free of authority his Lordship had no doubt that it should not be so confined.

First, examination of other parts of the rules such as Order 6, rule 5 made it clear that when the draftsmen of the rules wished to confine the address to a party's place of residence it did so in express terms and that the same was true where the draftsmen intended to refer to a business firm.

Second, in the case of a professional person, the client who wished to sue the professional

otherwise than as authorised by or under any order relating to the designated parking place...

Section 82 provides: "(2) ... the owner of a vehicle shall be taken to be the person by whom the vehicle was parked by the person who thereby suffered damage."

(3) In determining ... who was the owner of a vehicle at any time, it shall be presumed that the owner was the person in whose name the vehicle was at that time registered..."

Paragraph 2 of Schedule 6 provides: "(1) Where it appears to the recipient (of a penalty charge notice) that one or other of the grounds mentioned in sub-paragraph (4) below are satisfied, he may make representations to that effect to the London authority who served the notice on him..."

LODGE JUSTICE STUART-SMITH said that the "owner" of a vehicle, for present purposes, was defined by section 82(2) as the person by whom the vehicle was kept, and that person, by section 82(3), was presumed to be the person in whose name the vehicle was at the time registered under the vehicle excise and registration

order.

Section 66 of the 1994 Act provides: "(2) A penalty charge is payable with respect to a vehicle, by the owner of the vehicle, if — (a) the vehicle has been left — (i)

... the grounds are — (a) that the recipient — (i) never was the owner of the vehicle in question; (ii) had ceased to be its owner before the date on which the alleged contravention occurred; or (iii) became its owner after that date..."

Mr Alan Wilkie, QC and Mr Ranjith Bhose for the applicant; Mr Richard Gordon, QC, for the parking adjudicator.

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Section 66 of the 1994 Act provides: "(2) A penalty charge is payable with respect to a vehicle, by the owner of the vehicle, if — (a) the vehicle has been left — (i)

... the grounds are — (a) that the recipient — (i) never was the owner of the vehicle in question; (ii) had ceased to be its owner before the date on which the alleged contravention occurred; or (iii) became its owner after that date..."

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LODGE JUSTICE

Unexpected goal for Kelly puts Hack on his way



NO CHANGE in the overall competition, as John Hunt continues, albeit by a reduced margin, to lead the race for £50,000 in *The Times* Interactive Team Football game. Indeed, his other three teams have also maintained their positions in the top ten.

The weekly winner — and the recipient of £250 — is a Sky entrant. Mr P. Hack, from Milton Keynes, scored 28 points last week with his team, Dynamo Blue Ribbon. Mr Hack's masterstroke was the selection of Gary Kelly, whose seven points made him the most valuable full back by some distance. The comparatively low total is due to a much-reduced tally of goals scored over the week.

Mr Hack's team is:

Goalkeeper
D Kharine (Chelsea)

Full backs
G Kelly (Leeds)
I Nolan (Sheffield Wed)

Central defenders
L Radice (Leeds)
D Walker (Sheffield Wed)

Midfield players
A Asanovic (Derby)
D Beckham (Manchester Utd)
C Higney (Middlesbrough)
K Poborsky (Manchester Utd)

Strikers
S Booth (Aberdeen)
J Cadet (Celtic)

Manager
J Royle (Everton)



A rare goal by Adams gave him valuable points as a central defender. But were you bold enough to select him?



You can move into the transfer market using the ITF transfer system which allows

THIS WEEK'S TRANSFERS					
MOVED	Daren Huckerby (moves to Coventry City)	Newcastle	£0.50m	OUT	
50603 ...	John Spencer (Brentford)	Chelsea	£1.00m		
52703 ...	Brett Angel	Sunderland	£0.25m		
LOAN PLAYERS					
D Wassall (Derby to Manchester City, three weeks); R van der Laan (Leeds to Wolverhampton, three weeks); C Stannett (Leeds to Middlesbrough, one week); S Pocock (Sheffield Wednesday to Huddersfield, one week); M Jackson (Everton to Birmingham, one week); J Keane (Derby to Wrexham, one week); J Cundy (Tottenham to Ipswich, two weeks); R Pocock (Sheffield Wednesday to Birmingham, two weeks); J Johnson (Sheffield Wednesday to Bolton, three weeks); J Pocock (Cheltenham to Queens Park, one month); D Stoen (Chelsea to Stoke, one month); D Kerslake (Tottenham to Stevenage, one month); D Stoen (Chelsea to Stoke, one month); D Kerslake (Tottenham to Stevenage, one month)					
Loan periods subject to fluctuation					

HOW THE SCORING SYSTEM WORKS IN ITF

All 1996-7 matches in the FA Carling Premiership, FA Cup, Bell's Scottish League premier division and Tennents Scottish Cup from August 17 count for points. Penalty shootouts do not count but results decided in this way will count for managers.

POINTS SCORED

Goalkeeper	4pts	Striker	2pts
Keeps clean sheet*	4pts	Score goal	2pts
Scored goal	3pts	All players	1pt
Saves penalty	1pt	Appearance*	1pt
Full back/Central defender	3pts	Scored hat-trick	6pts
Keeps clean sheet*	3pts	Manager	1pt
Scored goal	2pts	Team wins	3pts
Midfield player	2pts	Team draws	1pt
Keeps clean sheet*	1pt	Team loses	1pt
Scored goal	2pts		

POINTS DEDUCTED

Goalkeeper	2pts	Booked	1pt
Conceded goal	2pts	Conceded penalty	1pt
Full back/Central defender	1pt	Missed penalty	1pt
Conceded goal	1pt	Scored own goal	1pt
Scored goal	3pts	Manager	1pt
Scored goal	3pts	Team loses	1pt

you to change up to two players each week and to adjust your team if one of your players is actually transferred out of the FA Carling Premiership or Bell's Scottish League premier division.

You can make transfers only by telephone. Using a Touch-tone (DTMF) telephone (most push-button telephones with a * and a hash key are Touch-tone), call the 0891 866 968 line during the times given. From outside the United Kingdom, you must call 0044 990 200 068.

When making a transfer, you must ensure that the team does not contain more than two individuals (two players or one player and a manager) from the same club.

If you are lagging behind the leading team selections, the transfer system will be an appealing option to you in the chase for the prizes — the overall £50,000, monthly £1,000 or weekly £250.

Check your points total and your ranking. You need a Touch-tone (DTMF) telephone (most push-button telephones with a * and a hash key are Touch-tone) and your ten-digit selector's PIN. Calls made from public telephones may cost approximately twice as much.

■ All Interactive Team Football transfer queries should be directed to 0171-7016. All other inquiries can be made on 01522 483 122.

The transfer week runs from 00.01 on Tuesday to midnight the following Monday. Transfers made before noon each day will become effective immediately. Transfers made after noon will become effective for matches played after noon on the following day.

Your new player only starts to score points for you when his transfer is registered. The current score of the player transferred out remains part of your team score but he then ceases to score for you.

If a player or manager moves teams during the season, it may affect the composition of your team. You must adjust your team by using the transfer system to avoid missing out on points.

Calls will be charged at 45p per minute cheap rate, 80p per minute at other times. Calls made from public telephones may cost approximately twice as much.

Call the ITF check-in on 0891 884 643

Outside UK 44 990 100 343

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The ITF players, their points and their values if you are considering the transfer option

Collymore's goal against Wimbledon made him a valuable striker during a week when many others missed the net



Collymore's goal against Wimbledon made him a valuable striker during a week when many others missed the net

Code	Name	Team	Pos	Wk	Out
10101	M Ward	Aberdeen	1.50	0	3
10102	N Walker	Aberdeen	1.00	+5	+5
10201	D Seaman	Arsenal	5.00	0	27
10202	V Bartman	Arsenal	0.75	0	0
10203	J Leslie	Aston Villa	0.75	-1	+6
10301	M Bielsch	Aston Villa	3.00	-1	+1
10302	M Oakes	Aston Villa	1.00	-1	+4
10401	T Flanagan	Blackburn Rovers	3.00	-1	-14
10402	S Gilver	Blackburn Rovers	2.00	0	1
10501	G Marshall	Celtic	2.00	0	1
10601	D Kharine	Chelsea	2.50	0	11
10602	K Hiltchcock	Chelsea	2.00	0	0
10701	S Ogrizovic	Coventry City	1.50	-3	-13
10702	J Flan	Derby County	1.00	0	0
10801	M Taylor	Derby County	1.00	-1	-6
10802	R Hoult	Dundee United	0.50	0	4
10901	L Key	Dundee United	0.50	-3	9
11001	I Weatherhead	Durham United	0.50	0	18
11101	N Southall	Everton	2.50	0	1
11102	P Gerrard	Hearts	2.00	0	6
11201	R Rousset	Hibernian	1.50	-1	-1
11301	J Leighton	Kilmarnock	1.00	0	25
11401	D Lekovic	Leeds United	2.50	-1	-8
11501	M Sealey	Leeds United	1.50	0	0
11502	P Evans	Leeds United	0.25	0	0
11503	N Murtry	Leeds United	2.50	-5	-8
11601	M Pocock	Leicester City	1.00	-1	-3
11603	K Miller	Leicester City	1.00	-1	-3
11701	D James	Liverpool	5.00	0	1
11801	T Warner	Liverpool	0.50	0	0
11802	P Schmeichel	Manchester United	5.00	-1	-11
11803	R van der Gouw	Manchester United	1.50	0	5
11804	G Walsh	Middlesbrough	1.50	-1	-5
11805	A Miller	Middlesbrough	1.50	-1	-3
12001	S Howis	Nottingham Forest	2.50	-1	-3
12002	S Hulop	Nottingham Forest	3.00	-1	-3
12003	P Smalek	Nottingham Forest	2.50	-1	-3
12004	M Crossley	Nottingham Forest	0.75	0	24
12005	A Fettie	Nottingham Forest	0.75	0	0
12006	T Wright	Nottingham Forest	0.75	0	0
12201	S Thomason	Reith Rovers	0.50	-1	-24
12401	A Goram	Rangers	5.00	-1	-19
12501	K Prestrman	Sheffield Wednesday	2.00	+4	-5
12601	D Sessan	Southampton	3.00	0	10
12602	N Moss	Southampton	0.25	0	2
12603	C Woods	Southampton	1.50	-4	-16
12702	L Perez	Sunderland	0.50	-1	-3
12801	I Walker	Tottenham Hotspur	3.50	-5	-15
12901	L Mikkola	West Ham United	2.00	-1	-5
12902	S Mautone	West Ham United	0.50	0	5
13001	H Sullivan	Wimbledon	1.00	-1	+3
13002	P Heald	Wimbledon	1.00	0	0

Code	Name	Team	Pos	Wk	Out
30401	C Hendry	Blackburn Rovers	4.00	0	+2
30402	I Pearce	Blackburn Rovers	2.50	0	0
30403	G Coleman	Blackburn Rovers	2.50	-3	0
30404	N Marker	Blackburn Rovers	0.50	0	+2
30501	T Boyd	Celtic	3.00	+0	+12
30502	M MacKay	Celtic	1.50	0	+3
30503	A Stubbs	Celtic	3.50	+0	+10
30504	B O'Neill	Celtic	3.00	0	0
30505	M Duberry	Chelsea	2.50	-3	0
30506	F Leboeuf	Chelsea	2.50	+0	+16
30507	F Simeone	Chelsea	2.00	0	0
30508	D Lee	Chelsea	2.00	0	+3
30509	E Myers	Chelsea	1.50	0	+8
30510	E Johnson	Chelsea	1.50	+0	+10
30511	L Delchi	Coventry City	2.00	-2	+2
30702	R Shaw	Coventry City	1.50	0	+2
30801	I Stilman	Derby County	2.50	0	-1
30802	D Wasmal	Derby County	1.00	0	0
30803	P McGrath	Derby County	2.50	0	+2
30804	J Laursen	Derby County	1.00	+7	0
30805	M Carson	Derby County	0.50	0	0
30901	S Pressley	Dundee United	1.00	-1	+6
30902	J Den Blasen	Dundee United	0.75	0	-4
30903	D Watson	Dundee United	0.75	-7	0
31001	D Unsworth	Everton	2.50	+2	+13
31002	D Watson	Everton	2.50	+5	0
31003	C Short	Everton	2.00	-1	+10
31004	D McPherson	Hearts	1.00	+8	0
31005	F Rilchie	Hearts	1.00	+0	+13
31006	J McLaughlin	Hibernian	0.50	0	4
31007	B Welsh	Hibernian	0.75	0	0
31008	G Hunter	Hibernian	0.50	+7	0
31009	M Reilly	Kilmarnock	0.75	0	4
31010	R Montgomery	Kilmarnock	0.75	0	4
31011	J Den Blasen	Leeds United	2.50	-4	0
31012	D Watson	Leeds United	1.00	+7	0
31013	D Watson	Leeds United	1.00	+4	0
31014	R Jobson	Leeds United	1.00	+4	0
31015	L Redde	Leeds United	1.00	+4	0
31016	J Pemberton	Leeds United	0.50	+0	0
31017	S Walsh	Leicester City	1.00	+2	+5
31018	J Tait	Leicester City	1.00	-1	+11
31019	P Karasek	Leicester City	0.50	0	0
31020	P Priske	Leicester City	1.00	-1	+5
31021	P Sibb	Leicester City	2.50	+0	+10
31022	R Johnson	Middlesbrough	1.50	-9	0
31023	J McErlane	Middlesbrough	1.50	-7	0
31024	D Wight	Middlesbrough	1.50	-11	0
31025	H Ruddock	Middlesbrough	3.00	-7	0
31026	S Dennis	Rangers	3.50	+0	+24
31027	R Gough	Rangers	3.00	0	0
31028	A McLaren	Rangers	3.00	0	0
31029	J Blorlind	Rangers	3.50	+0	+16
31030	G Petrie	Rangers	2.50	+0	0
31031	J Neesom	Sheffield Wednesday	2.00	+1	+8
31032	D Walker	Sheffield Wednesday	1.50	+0	+9
31033	B Lingham	Sheffield Wednesday	1.50	-1	-1
31034	A Nelson	Southampton	1.50	-2	-3
31035	R Dryden	Southampton	0.50	-2	-3
31036	G Lundström	Southampton	0.50	-1	-6
31037	D Pascack	Southampton	1.50	-2	-11
31038	N Pescall	Southampton	1.00	+1	+13
31039	C Cooper	Southampton	1.00	-1	-6
31040	S Chettle	Southampton	1.50	-1	-11
31041	B Sherriff	Southampton	1.00	-1	-1
31042	D McAlister	Southampton	1.00	-1	-1
31043	S Fitzgerald	Southampton	1.00	-1	-1
31044	M Riper	Southampton	2.00	0	-2
31045	S Potts	Southampton	2.00	0	-2
31046	R Hall	Southampton	1.50	0	0
31047	R Gough	Southampton	1.50	0	0
31048	I Reeves	Southampton	1.00	0	0
31049	D Blackwell	Southampton	1.00	0	0
31050	S Nethercott	Southampton	1.00	0	0
31051	B Clegg	Southampton	1.00	0	0
31052	D Sturridge	Southampton	1.00	0	0
31053	E Tait	Southampton	1.00	0	0
31054	J Wilcox	Southampton	1.00	0	0
31055	R Garcia	Southampton	2.00	0	0
31056	M Draper	Southampton	2.00	0	0
31057	D Townsend	Southampton	2.00	0	0
31058	I Taylor	Southampton	2.00	0	0
31059	G Farrelly	Southampton	1.00	0	0
31060	S Curcio	Southampton	1.00	0	0
31061	D Whiddon	Southampton	3.50	+1	+14
31062	J Wilcox	Southampton	4.0		

THE TIMES TODAY

TUESDAY NOVEMBER 26 1996

NEWS

Clarke takes steam out of Euro row

■ Kenneth Clarke bought the Government time over Europe when he told MPs that he would seek copper-bottomed guarantees that Brussels would not interfere in the British economy if it did not join a single currency.

The Chancellor also promised that no binding political decisions would be taken by finance ministers meeting in Dublin on Monday, and that the Commons would hold an extended debate on the new currency next month. Pages 1, 9

British drivers mount their own blockade

■ British lorry drivers trapped in Calais by their striking French counterparts mounted a counter-blockade, insisting that no tourist traffic would be allowed to move until they were allowed to leave. The strikers intensified their protest by blockading ports and the German border. Pages 1, 10

Extradition plea

The eldest daughter of Bernadette McAliskey, the former nationalist MP, is facing extradition to Germany on charges connected to an IRA attack. Page 1

Advertising risk

The president of the Royal College of Surgeons is accusing the General Medical Council of jeopardising health-care by allowing consultants to advertise. Page 1

Divers called in

A specialist diving team was flown to the Comoros Islands to retrieve the remaining bodies from the wreckage of the hijacked Ethiopian Airlines jet. Pages 1, 6

Whitehall hotel

A scheme to convert a former Treasury building into a hotel overlooking Whitehall came under fierce criticism from MPs who were worried about terrorist threats. Page 2

Airliner libel case

A former public relations manager for British Airways began a libel action over claims that he is a liar who masterminded a smear campaign against Virgin Atlantic. Page 3

Urban sprawl

More than 14,000 acres of rural Cambridgeshire could disappear under new housing by 2016 unless more development is redirected towards the inner cities and derelict land. Page 4

Millennium 'will blot out the stars'

■ Astronomers complained that Millennium Commission plans to illuminate hundreds of buildings will intensify light pollution and blot out the night sky for millions. The children of the next millennium were being condemned never to see the stars, John Mason of the British Astronomical Society told a conference in London. Page 7

Books dispute

The French publishers of Ben Okri's novel *The Famished Road* are scrutinising a book which won the Grand Prix du Roman de l'Academie Francaise after similarities between the books were discovered. Page 5

Blasphemy ruling

Britain won the rare backing of European human rights judges for using its ancient blasphemy laws to ban an erotic film about a 16th-century nun. Page 8

Britain needed

A single currency "would not be desirable or convenient" without Britain's full participation, Jose Maria Aznar, the Spanish Prime Minister, said. Page 11

Man for Belarus

The President of Belarus celebrated his landslide victory in Sunday's referendum which, in effect, granted the leader one-man rule into the next century. Page 25

Zaire delay criticised

France criticised the international community for failing to decide whether to send a multinational force to Zaire to help to rescue thousands of refugees. Page 12

Airliner libel case

A former public relations manager for British Airways began a libel action over claims that he is a liar who masterminded a smear campaign against Virgin Atlantic. Page 3

Urban sprawl

More than 14,000 acres of rural Cambridgeshire could disappear under new housing by 2016 unless more development is redirected towards the inner cities and derelict land. Page 4

Millennium 'will blot out the stars'

■ Astronomers complained that Millennium Commission plans to illuminate hundreds of buildings will intensify light pollution and blot out the night sky for millions. The children of the next millennium were being condemned never to see the stars, John Mason of the British Astronomical Society told a conference in London. Page 7



Striking French lorry drivers demonstrate at the Calais terminal where they are blockading entry to the cross-Channel ferries. Page 1

BUSINESS

Navy: The Rosyth Royal Dockyard has been bought by Babcock after Michael Portillo, the Defence Secretary, ordered the refitting of some of the Royal Navy's most important warships at the yard. Page 25

Trans: Amey and Sir Robert McAlpine won the £175 million contract to build the Croydon Tramlink system and said they will bid for similar transportation proposals. Page 25

Crest: The board, which is overseeing conversion to paperless trading, has decided to press on with full conversion by April. Page 25

Market: The FTSE 100 rose 35.9 to 4054.6. Sterling rose from 92.5 to 92.8 after increases from \$1.6692 to \$1.6702 and from DM2.5379 to DM 2.5409. Page 28

Athletics: The British federation is so hard up that it will not be sending a full squad to the European cross country championships in Belgium next month. Page 48

Football: Jay Neary of Charlton Athletic faces a lengthy ban after being found positive for a cocktail of drugs, including cocaine, cannabis and ecstasy. Page 48

Rugby union: Victor Ubogu has been recalled to England's squad for the match against the New Zealand Barbarians and could resume his international career if Jason Leonard is unfit. Page 48

Motor rallying: Armin Schwarz, of Germany, won the RAC Rally from Masse Kaimoku, of Japan, by nearly eight minutes, the biggest margin since 1983. Page 48

Athletics: The British federation is so hard up that it will not be sending a full squad to the European cross country championships in Belgium next month. Page 48

Star-shuddered: Lorna Luft headed a glittering transatlantic line-up at the Albert Hall for a tribute to Ira Gershwin. Page 32

Star-free: "The challenge was to extract from the material what comedy exists while making a film bereft of stars": Matt Wolf talks about making *Roddy Doyle's The Van*. Page 33

Silver screen: A gilded leopard is the focus of day-one of our guide to the Victoria and Albert Museum's new Silver Galleries. Page 33

Platform stars: Germany is celebrating the millennium with a breathtaking plan to rebuild all of its main railway stations as futuristic glass palaces, with shops, cinemas and leisure facilities, and the trains running below. Page 34

Star-dust smell: Why does an Oxford graduate run away to join the circus? Neil Stroud tells how she became a ringmistress. Page 15

Children in need: Gone are the days when adoption agencies had beautiful babies on their books. What is needed are ways to deal with traumatised children. Page 14

Foreign body: "Sometimes I think it has eyes," says a patient with "alien hand syndrome". It's almost like it knows where it's going. It is working for destruction". Page 14

Legal break-in: Proposals for the police to bug private premises threaten civil liberties. Page 35

Second opinion: If the punishment for a crime appears unduly lenient, the Attorney-General may refer the case for re-sentencing. Page 37

LIBBY PURVES

A steady hand from the strong — the solvent taxpayer — will save that taxpayer in a few years' time from having to pay thousands more in health costs, police costs and the expense of policing dirty and dangerous cities. Page 15

BEN MACINTYRE

Perhaps the most remarkable characteristic of the French lorry drivers is his enduring popularity. As commuters sit in traffic jams and competed for dwindling petrol supplies, most appeared to accept disruption with the placidity of spectators at a well-rehearsed ritual. Page 15

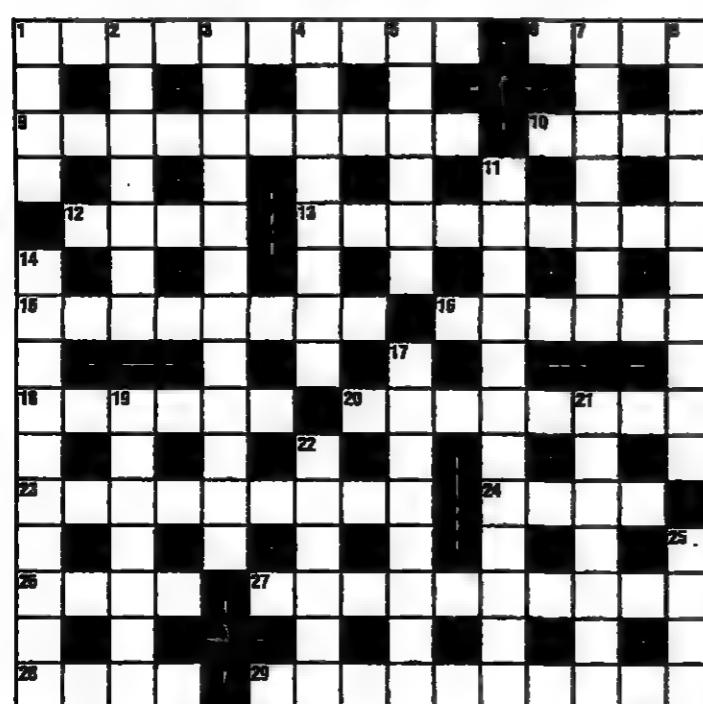
PETER RIDDELL

The shrewd members of the Shadow Cabinet well understand the strains that a Labour Government would face over a single currency. Page 15

Mohamed Amin: television cameraman; **Professor Abdus Salam:** physicist; **Vera van der Heydt:** psychotherapist; **J. Edward Day:** inventor of the ZIP code. Page 15

Aerospace industry: debates bypassed in Parliament; **GMC policy change:** General, Synod; **prison sentences:** Monkhouse joke book big fish. Page 15

THE TIMES CROSSWORD NO 20,335



ACROSS

1 Favour ending with clue that's different (10).
 6 Inspect second prison (4).
 9 Repentance of offender in tort I mishandled (10).
 10 On TV, spots English novelist (4).
 12 Item included by typical solicitor (4).
 13 Judge involved in charge of intolerance (9).
 15 A hard case is a bad one for houseman? (8).
 16 Lodge is home — last resort (6).
 18 A mouthpiece in church for religious ruler (6).
 20 Scot endlessly making noise about partners (8).
 23 Skilled workers applied mathematics (9).
 24 Settles first parts of policy, as you see (4).

Solution to Puzzle No 20,334

LITOTES ABSCOND
 AIR RUM T P
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 BASE TAN
 AUNTSALLY DISCO
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 CONJUNDRUM TANGO
 R D I B V
 INDIUS CONCOURSE
 M R W A R I R
 STATEMENT INDIAN
 CIPPEE C
 INCISION SALIENT

Times Two Crossword, page 48

LATEST: Road and Weather conditions

UK Weather: All regions 0336 444 410
UK Roads: All regions 0336 401 410
India P25
US and Canada Roads: 0336 401 746
National Highways: 0336 401 747
Channel crossings: 0336 401 910
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 North 416 235
 Northern Ireland 416 239
 Meteor. Service before letters: 416 396

World City Weather

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 5 day forecasts
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 by Fax (Index page): 0336 416 333

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THE TIMES

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TODAY



BUSINESS

Black is white
in the EU, says
Anatole Kaletsky
PAGE 29



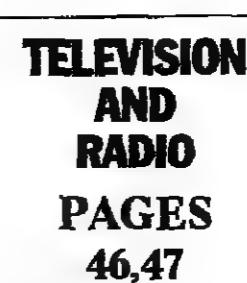
ARTS

Transport 2000:
Germany's gigantic
new train stations
PAGES 32-34



SPORT

Brian Glanville on
the magic of
Milan's derby day
PAGES 43-48



BUSINESS EDITOR Lindsay Cook

TUESDAY NOVEMBER 26 1996

Buoyant
market
mood on
eve of
Budget

By JAMES BURN
ECONOMICS
CORRESPONDENT

LONDON'S financial markets were in buoyant mood on the eve of what most investors hope will be an economically prudent rather than a politically eye-catching Budget. Sterling was caught up in the pre-Budget optimism, but most of its strength yesterday was down to a "slide" in the mark, which was struggling to maintain its ground after the lira's entry into the European exchange-rate mechanism.

The lira's acceptance after difficult and protracted weekend negotiations raised fears that an eventual single currency might not be as stable as its architects had envisaged.

The pound jumped to its highest level against the mark for 32 months and, in spite of slipping back a little, still closed nearly two pennies higher. On its effective index against a basket of currencies, sterling finished at 92.8, compared with 92.5 on Friday.

Sterling has been rising on market expectations that interest rates will have to increase in the coming months to dampen the strengthening consumer sector of the economy.

A give-away Budget would only reinforce the argument for higher rates and further strengthen the pound. Some economists believe that even a tight Budget would still leave the pound on a rising trend because rates would still have to go up.

But John Sheppard, chief economist of Yamaichi International Europe, said that caution today from Kenneth Clarke, the Chancellor, might subdue the current appetite for the pound.

He said that the markets were currently pricing in base rates of 7.25 per cent by the end of next year, compared with 6 per cent now, which is more pessimistic than most economists. A tight Budget might persuade the markets to scale back these forecasts.

The FTSE 100 index of leading shares added to Friday's dramatic gains, jumping a further 35.9 points to close at 4,054.6. It is now within striking distance of its record of 4,073.2 set on October 21.

Government bonds inched higher on hopes that Mr Clarke will restrict his tax give-away to the minimum, more or less matching any tax cuts with spending reductions.

On re-entry to the ERM, the lira almost immediately rallied up to its new central rate of 90 to the mark and then above it. In late trading, the Italian currency was quoted at 95.80 to the mark.

Markets, page 28

Rosyth saved by £500m order on sale to Babcock

By MICHAEL EVANS, DEFENCE CORRESPONDENT

THE sale of Rosyth Royal Dockyard was finally agreed yesterday and firm orders for refitting some of the Royal Navy's most prestigious warships was announced by Michael Portillo, the Defence Secretary.

After two and a half years of tough negotiations with the Ministry of Defence, Babcock International, which has managed the dockyard since 1987, concluded an agreement for the purchase of Rosyth, estimated to be worth more than £25 million. The guaranteed refitting work, which will last ten years, will be worth at least £500 million, helping to safeguard the 3,200 jobs at Rosyth.

Mr Portillo, in Scotland for the announcement, named four of the warships to be refitted at Rosyth. They are HMS Invincible and HMS Ark Royal, both aircraft carriers, and two nuclear-powered "hunter killer" submarines, HMS *Sceptre* and HMS *Spartan*. Other warships will be included in the deal.

Although Rosyth has been given two more nuclear submarine refits, the contracts on HMS *Sceptre* and HMS *Spartan* are expected to be the last, because the MoD wants all nuclear refits to be concentrated at Devonport.

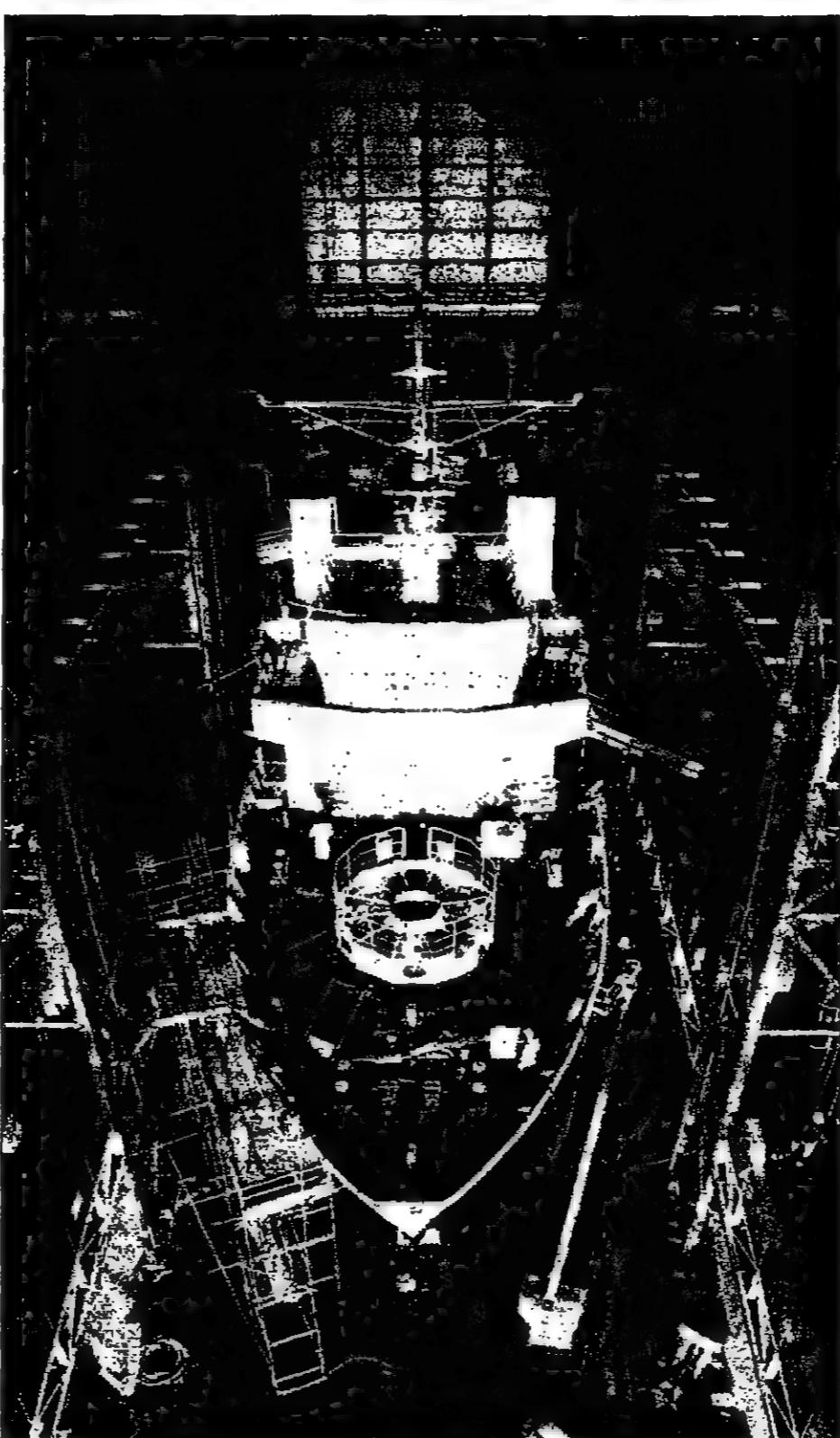
When Devonport beat Rosyth for the contract to refit the Trident submarines in a politically charged competition, in which jobs and votes were alleged to have played a significant part, the future of the Firth of Forth yard appeared to be in doubt.

However, the Government announced that Rosyth would be given a proportion of future refit contracts.

Now, with yesterday's confirmation that two carriers and two nuclear submarines are to be on the list for refit work, Rosyth has been given a new lease of life, which should provide employment stability for the area for the next ten years.

Alan Smith, managing director of Babcock International's Facilities Management Division, which has been managing Rosyth, welcomed the privatisation deal. He said the yard had achieved significant improvements in refitting submarines and surface ships.

Brian Negus, union chairman at the dockyard, said: "It is a good day for Rosyth. At least we have a chance to secure our own future."



No longer anchored to the state, Rosyth dockyard aims to become more competitive

Takeover Panel looks at Northern bidder

By CHRISTINE BUCKLEY
INDUSTRIAL CORRESPONDENT

CE ELECTRIC, the company stalking Northern Electric, is being investigated by the Takeover Panel as it mounts a massive telephone campaign to contact small shareholders to their homes.

Northern Electric has lodged a complaint with the panel, after reports that representatives of CE Electric were not identifying themselves correctly in phone calls to shareholders' homes. Small shareholders of the regional electricity company have complained of harassment from CE Electric, the US grouping in which Cal-Energy is the majority partner.

CE Electric is calling shareholders at home in order, it says, to check their shareholdings and that they have received information relating to the £766 million bid. Its representatives are sifting through telephone directories to discover home numbers, having obtained shareholders' addresses from share registers.

A spokesman for CE Electric said the procedure was perfectly legal. He said the company would continue calling shareholders' home numbers.

About 80,000 individual investors with fewer than 1,000 shares account for 20 per cent of Northern's equity. Chris Foote Wood, chairman of the Northern Electric Small Shareholders Association, said: "Many of the small shareholders are elderly, retired and shareholders for the first time. A lot of them have found these telephone calls harassing. They don't like being called at home when they have all the information they need."

Northern said it had received a stream of complaints from shareholders. The Takeover Panel is obliged to investigate complaints made during takeovers.

The Office of Fair Trading is considering whether the bid should be referred to the Monopolies Commission.

Yesterday Northern shares stood at 593.5p. The bid was made at 630p.

Pennington, page 27

BUSINESS TODAY

STOCK MARKET

FTSE 100	4054.6	(+35.9)
Yield	3.51%	
FTSE 30 share	1983.72	(+13.38)
MoM	2123.57	(+7.46)
New York		
Dow Jones	6502.22	(+30.56)
S&P Composite	752.82	(+4.08)

US RATE

Federal Funds	5.50%	(5.50%)
Long Bond	10.10%	(10.00%)
Yield	6.42%	(6.44%)

LONDON MONEY

3-mth libor	6.75%	(6.75%)
Libs long gil	11.15%	(11.05%)

STERLING

New York	1.6700*	(1.6600)
London	1.6727	(1.6811)
DM	2.2015	(2.2035)
Fr	0.6218	(0.6203)
SE	1.2458	(1.2438)
Yen	168.17	(168.96)
E Index	98.8	(98.5)

US DOLLAR

London	1.5229*	(1.5070)
DM	0.6259*	(0.6170)
Fr	0.2875*	(0.2708)
SE	112.69	(111.37)
Yen	98.7	(98.0)

TOKYO

Tokyo closes Yen 112.12

NORTH SEA OIL

Brent 15-day (Jan) \$22.25 (\$22.35)

GOALS

London closes 5375.05 (5377.18)

* denotes midday trading price

Paperless deadline remains at Crest

By GAVIN LUMSDEN

THE board of CrestCo, the company overseeing the City's conversion to paperless trading, decided unanimously after a three-and-a-half hour meeting yesterday to press on with its timetable for full conversion by April.

There had been calls for the transition period to be extended to September 1997.

CrestCo claimed the proportion of UK equities settling in Crest had risen from 25 per cent to 40 per cent since November 6, while the number of deals settling on time had increased from 60 per cent to 70 per cent. However, this falls short of Talisman — which Crest supercedes — which settles 70 per cent of trades to schedule.

Mr Iain Saville, CrestCo chief executive, said: "After balancing the costs against the risks, we decided it best to go on. It is in the entire market's interests that the transition period is completed as quickly as possible."

The decision followed a meeting last Friday with the Securities and Investments Board, the City regulator, and the London Stock Exchange which decided to support CrestCo, despite opposition to the timetable from a quarter of their members.

Stockbrokers are increasingly fearful that Crest will impose delays on thousands of investors wanting to "bed and breakfast" their investments at the end of the tax year.

Pennington, page 27

Search starts for new head of Serious Fraud Office

By ROBERT MILLER

THE Serious Fraud Office today begins its formal search for a replacement to George Staple, the country's top fraudbuster, whose five-year contract ends in April. Sir Nicholas Lyell, the Attorney-General, has placed a newspaper advertisement offering the successful candidate "the salary of a High Court judge".

Mr Staple, 56, more than halved his pay when he joined the SFO in April 1992 from Clifford Chance, a City law firm, where he was senior litigation partner. This year the Queen appointed him a Companion, Order of the Bath for his period in office.

During his time at the SFO, Mr Staple has introduced far-reaching reforms to the way in which cases of serious and complex fraud are investigated. The fraud office has more than 80 cases under investigation, including the Sumitomo

Amey and McAlpine win £175m Tramlink contract

By ERIC REGULY

AMERY and Sir Robert McAlpine yesterday won the £175 million contract to build the Croydon Tramlink system, one of the first projects of its kind since trams disappeared in the London area in the early 1950s, and the two construction companies said they will bid for similar transport projects in other cities.

Amey and McAlpine, a joint venture, will design, construct and maintain the 17-mile light rail network, which will link Croydon, Wimbledon, Beckenham and New Addington when completed in late 1999.

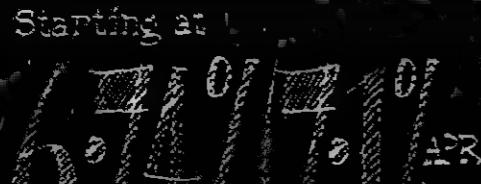
Neil Astley, Amey chairman, said the project marked

an expected revival of tram systems. "They have all the attributes of being environmentally friendly and help relieve traffic congestion," he said. Amey plans to bid for tram construction projects in Birmingham, Leeds and Liverpool when they are offered.

John Bowis, Transport Minister, predicted that trams would be running in London again by the turn of the century. The last ones, double-deckers, disappeared in London in 1952.

Amey shares rose 12.5p, to 367.5p, within striking distance of their 52-week high of 370p. Shareholders have supported Amey's transition from

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JOHN CHARCOL

Machine hitch hits profits

Shares in Applied Holographics fell 17½p to 12-month low of 69p as the watermark company blamed problems with a new machine for an operating loss of £213,000, down from £64,000 profit, in the half year to September 30.

The company said that it was now trading profitably. Again there is no dividend.

Cobham buys

Cobham, the UK aerospace engineer, has bought Continental Microwave and Tool Co, a US maker of microwave communication waveguides, for a profit-related sum of up to \$14.4 million.

Network up

Network Technology, the computer connectivity specialist, made pre-tax profits of £3.33 million for the year to September 30, up from £1.08 million last time and slightly ahead of July's flotation prospectus forecast. There is a maiden final dividend of 0.5p.

Adare ahead

Adare, the printing group operating in the Irish Republic and the UK, lifted pre-tax profits 28 per cent, to £15.2 million, in the half year to October 31. The interim dividend is 13.12p, up 50 per cent.

TOURIST RATES

	Bank Buy	Bank Sale
Australia	8.17	9.01
Austria	1.07	1.17
Belgium	58.25	59.05
Canada	2.387	2.397
Cyprus	0.7807	0.748
Denmark	10.35	10.55
Finland	8.24	7.99
France	8.00	8.28
Germany	2.24	2.41
Greece	1.00	1.01
Hong Kong	13.81	12.81
Iceland	1.00	1.00
Israel	5.75	5.10
Italy	28.95	24.80
Japan	102.40	105.40
Malta	1.00	1.00
Netherlands	2.959	2.765
New Zealand	2.50	2.50
Norway	11.05	10.77
Portugal	20.80	20.00
S Africa	8.32	7.82
Spain	28.00	27.00
Sweden	11.11	11.11
Switzerland	2.27	2.05
Turkey	178.00	168.00
USA	1.777	1.947

Rates for small denominations may not be supplied by Barclays PLC. Details relating to travel cheques. Rates as at close of trading yesterday.



Charles Parker, right, new chief executive of Toad, the car security company, with Chris Evans, its founder, when Toad yesterday announced a £1.4 million deal with Mercedes-Benz. Mercedes has agreed to market Secur-Fix, Toad's triple-laminate film that protects windows against break-ins and, in accidents, holds in broken glass

UK flexible jobs policy not working, says UN

BY PHILIP BASSETT, INDUSTRIAL EDITOR

THE Government's policy of greater labour market flexibility will today be criticised by a United Nations report that has estimated world unemployment at 1 billion.

The UN's International Labour Office (ILO), which wants to see economic strategies aimed at producing full employment, describes the world jobs market as grim. It also gives warning that the growing numbers in work but poor rates of job creation are likely to lead to international minimum employment

standards. Such a link would centre on the ILO.

The UK Government has deregulated the importance of the labour market in order to improve economic competitiveness. However, in the second of a regular series of employment studies, the ILO today says that there is no basis for believing that job regulations are necessarily a source of rigidity in the labour market.

Indeed, the ILO goes further, endorsing the idea of raising labour productivity

through investment in skills development, infrastructure, and research and development. Such views are closely in line with those put forward in the UK by Labour.

The UK Government also largely rejects full employment as an economic target. The ILO, however, says that "nothing short of a renewed international commitment to full employment is required to reverse the poverty, unemployment and underemployment around the world."

Rejecting theories about the end of work, the ILO acknowledges the impact of corporate downsizing, but says that "compensatory" job creation has not been sufficiently emphasised. Far from being outmoded, full employment is feasible and desirable, says the UN study: "The current high unemployment in industrialised countries has human costs of the utmost severity... breeds crime and other social pathologies from which everyone in society suffers."

□ *World Employment 1996-97*, ILO, London, £18.90

Destocking hurts Filofax

BY SARAH CUNNINGHAM

FILOFAX put on a brave face yesterday, raising its interim dividend by 11 per cent in spite of a 30 per cent fall in profits. Robin Field, chief executive, attributed the dividend rise to a fall in borrowings and "confidence in the future". Pre-tax profit is the half year

to September 30 was £2.1 million, down from £2.9 million.

Destocking by WH Smith, a big customer, hit UK profits and will have an impact in the second half, but profits in the period should be no less than at the same time last year, Filofax said. The dividend rises to 1.5p, from 1.35p, although earnings per share fell from 7.4p to 4.8p. Borrowings were £2 million (£4.4 million).

Filofax gave a profit warning in July, when its shares fell 40 per cent, to 165p. Mr Field said that the market for its products is now "healthier and vigorous", with signs of buoyant consumer interest at the top of the market. Filofax shares closed 8p up, at 146½p.

□ *World Employment 1996-97*, ILO, London, £18.90

Pennington, page 27

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Alcopops rivalry bites into Two Dogs

BY ALASDAIR MURRAY

THE BATTLE for the booming alcopops market hit interim profits at Merydew, the drinks company, as its Two Dogs brand lost market share to rivals.

Shares of the company fell 8½p, to 100p, against a 1996 high of 140p, with the City worried that sales will suffer further if the Government imposes a punitive tax on alcopops in today's Budget.

Profits fell to £670,000, from £1.16 million last year, although turnover rose 5 per cent, to £19.41 million, boosted by a strong growth in branded ciders. Merydew's share of the total cider market rose from 4 per cent to 4.7 per cent, helped by its trading links with Whitbread, but its share of the alcopop market was reduced, to around 15 per cent.

Richard Pursey, chairman, said that about 90 new products had been launched in the alcopop market during the year. The profit contribution from alcopops was also hit by a high marketing spend and the need to discount end-of-range Two Dogs stock ahead of the launch of a new fruit brews and spirits.

Pursey from Pulse, the white cider brand, were reduced by £100,000 because of the need to buy in high-cost, imported apple juice concentrate to cover increased demand and a late UK apple crop.

The City is predicting that the tax on alcopops could be increased by as much as 25 per cent in the Budget. Alcopops producers have been heavily criticised by politicians for encouraging under-age drinkers. But Mr Pursey said that the industry had tightened its self-regulation and a punitive tax would make a mockery of recent moves towards taxing alcoholic drinks on the basis of strength.

Merydew said that overall prospects for the company's ciders remain good. It was confident the new range of Two Dogs drinks, and a marketing spend of around £750,000 in the second half, would ensure the brand remains a significant player. The interim dividend was increased by 5 per cent, to 2.1p a share, payable December 24.

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AEA held back by costs of flotation

AEA TECHNOLOGY, the nuclear waste and decommissioning business, blamed the costs of its recent flotation for the £5 million charge that held back its debut half-year results. While operating profits were 18.5 per cent ahead, at £6.4 million, one-off charges cut pre-tax profits for the six months to September 30 from £5.3 million to £1.2 million. While sales to the UK Atomic Energy Authority continued to fall sharply, new business from the private sector and overseas enabled AEA's group turnover to edge higher, to £11.8 million.

Sir Anthony Cleaver, chairman, said that AEA was looking for acquisitions, while Peter Watson, chief executive, said that the technology services sector was "pretty immature" and in need of consolidation. AEA aims to increase its profit margins to 10 per cent in the next two or three years. It made 7.8 per cent last year. New orders grew 13 per cent to £165.6 million. The company will pay a first interim dividend of 2.75p a share on February 3.

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Vodafone calls Ericsson

VODAPONE, the mobile-phone company, has placed a \$330 million order for communications equipment from Ericsson, the Swedish electronics group. Under the three-year contract, one of its largest equipment purchases, Vodafone will buy equipment to build virtual private networks, high-speed data services and messaging and indoor radio coverage. The purchases are part of Vodafone's strategy of creating advanced networks for corporate customers.

Inn Business buys rival

INN BUSINESS, the independent public house operator, yesterday took a big step towards achieving its ambition of building a 600-strong pub estate with the £30.2 million purchase of Sycamore Taverns, a rival group. The company will use a rights issue to raise £15.8 million to help to pay for the acquisition. New shares will be offered on a 5-for-1 basis at 63.5p a share. Sycamore Taverns owns 216 tenanted pubs in central and southern England. Inn Business has 277 tenanted and 17 managed pubs.

Skandia in merger

SKANDIA, the insurance company based in Stockholm, is merging with Stadshypo, Sweden's largest mortgage bank. The move will create one of the largest financial institutions in the Nordic region to be known as Skandia Stadshypo. Stadshypo has an almost 30 per cent share of the Swedish mortgage market and about 600,000 customers. Skandia has a market share of 20 per cent of non-life insurance business in Sweden by premium income and about 28 per cent market share of life and long-term savings products.

Action Time for Carlton

CARLTON COMMUNICATIONS yesterday took full control of Action Time, which produces and licenses television game shows and other entertainment programmes, for £45 million in shares and cash. Carlton already owned 15 per cent of it. The deal came three days after Carlton became the largest independent commercial broadcaster, reaching 38 per cent of the population, by agreeing to pay £85 million for Westcountry Television, the ITV company in Devon and Cornwall.

IMI buys US firm

IMI, the international engineering group, is expanding its fluid power group by acquiring ISI Automation in the US for \$150 million. ISI makes pneumatic components for automated material handling systems and is a leading supplier to the automotive industry. The company made operating profits of \$1.6 million in 1995, on sales of \$99 million. The acquisition, to be funded from existing bank facilities, is expected to enhance earnings in 1997. IMI shares rose 8p, to 364p.

Field strategy pays off

FIELD GROUP, the packaging company, increased pre-tax profits to £10.5 million from £9.1 million in the six months to September 30 on turnover that improved to £108.5 million from £97.3 million. Earnings rose to 13.3p a share from 11.5p. The interim dividend is lifted to 3.1p a share from 2.8p. Frank Knight, chairman, said the benefits of record investment in the previous year would become increasingly evident over the coming months.

Marling interim halved

MARLING INDUSTRIES, the industrial textiles group, suffered a decline in pre-tax profits to £920,000 from £2.48 million in the half year to September 30. Earnings fell to 0.07p a share from 0.33p and the interim dividend is cut to 0.12p a share from 0.25p. Paddy Linaker, chairman, said the company had experienced difficult trading conditions worldwide during the past six months. Turnover increased by six per cent to £34.4 million from £32.5 million.

Recovery continues at NHL with £18m

BY ROBERT MILLER

NATIONAL Home Loans (NHL), the mortgage and consumer lending group, continued its recovery by making a big push in the corporate and employee car finance market with the recent purchase of RCR Contract Hire, and leasing Auto Finance Direct. Jonathan Perry, chairman, said: "This change of emphasis will continue and during the year the group can expect to see a return to asset growth, for the first time since 1991, as the addition of new mortgages and other financial assets exceeds the run-off from the old book."

Shares in National Home Loans rose 5p to 111½p.

Shares in National Home Loans rose 5p to 111½p from 110½p on the back of the company's strong performance in the first half of the year. The company's capital position was £25.996m as at 31 December 1995, a Specialist Residential Finance company of the Company's capital (as defined in Sections 171 and 172 of the Companies Act 1985) in respect of the purchases by the Company from American Home Finance of £11,061,012 and for the contribution of the reduction of the amount of £1,000,000 of the Company's capital in respect of the purchases by the Company from WH Smith of £1,000,000.

Mr. Perry said: "The amount of the permissible capital should be reduced to £25.996m as at 31 December 1995, a Specialist Residential Finance company of the Company's capital (as defined in Sections 171 and 172 of the Companies Act 1985) in respect of the purchases by the Company from American Home Finance of £11,061,012 and for the contribution of the reduction of the amount of £1,000,000 of the Company's capital in respect of the purchases by the Company from WH Smith of £1,000,000.

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□ Full steam ahead for paperless market □ Pirc's stand a doubtful one □ Will Clarke tax the alcopops?

□ CRESTCO, the operator of the City's new paperless share-trading system, has taken an enormous risk. There must now be a danger that by next April the system will not be up and fully running, and the Stock Exchange's Talisman paper service will have to be granted a temporary and expensive reprieve.

If that happens, the search will be on for a scapegoat, and the ideal candidate will be the company operating the failed system. Alternatively we could all blame the party that refused to heed warnings and allow a delay in the system's implementation. If they are one and the same, the assignation of blame should be a foregone conclusion.

CrestCo's view last night, after a board meeting to consider an extension to the transition of shares from Talisman to Crest, was that the process was now sufficiently well advanced that the system was ready for its maiden voyage. As the old joke has it, so was the *Titanic*. What were described as "inevitable teething problems" showed up in October. The system could not cope with the increased volume of shares now going through Crest, as the stock market's 3,000 stocks were individually transferred across from Talisman, a process that is now about one-third of the way through.

Just why the problems

Crest gambles on riding the wave

cropped up is a matter of dispute. Some big stockbrokers criticised the software itself, and it is clear there were glitches, probably inevitable for such a complex piece of information technology.

CrestCo, jointly owned by the securities industry, suggested that some small brokers experiencing difficulties might have to have their transactions restricted, since the April deadline came round, to the extent that their own computers could cope.

There were dark mutterings of cheap software and corners cut. The small brokers were dismayed at any action putting them at an even greater disadvantage to the large City firms. The obvious action was an extension of the transition timetable. But this would not only have meant loss of face, which is cheap enough, but heavy extra costs. The Crest system costs £2 million a year to operate, and this and the expenses of an extended Talisman would have had to be carried by the securities industry. It would have blown a hole through any budgets set up for Crest, which envisage a top cost for im-

plementation of £25 million. Last night's decision seems to have come after a degree of arm-twisting from the Securities and Investments Board. Crest's regulator, it is clear the SIB has relied on CrestCo's own assurances that the recent improvements in Crest will be maintained.

The judgment has to come from the CrestCo board themselves. If they are right that the improvements since October can be extended, in particular a quicker settlement that puts less strain on small brokers' cashflow, the decision to steam ahead is the right one. If not, history will be a harsh judge.

Fighting a losing battle at Emap

□ BEFORE Joe Cooke, the former sidekick to Conrad Black at The Telegraph, books his return ticket from Monaco to attend Monday's shareholders' meeting at Emap, he might ponder whether to save the expense. Despite the impassioned arguments put by Mr Cooke and the other dissident director, Professor



96 per cent over the past five years and said, to hell with corporate governance, we do not want to rock this boat.

To take on the board a second time was sheer madness. Never mind that at the famous two-day board meeting in Melton Mowbray last month, Ken and Joe believed they were being fed porridge pies; the institutions had already given carte blanche to Sir John Hoskyns, Emap's chairman, and Robin Miller, the managing director.

Pirc's support for Ken and Joe is principled but faulty. It is concerned that if Mr Miller succeeds Sir John, which will not be until July 1998 anyway, there will be some doubt whether Mr Miller qualifies as an independent chairman. But Pirc's test of independence for non-executives includes asking if they have been on the board for ten years or more. Professor Simmonds (12 years) and Mr Cooke (15 years) clearly do not pass that test.

The second rebellion of Ken and Joe has been quixotic, if not an actual suicide mission. The rebel non-executives had a point when, earlier this year, they opposed Emap's plan to change its articles of association to allow directors to be fired without reference to shareholders. But institutional investors are pragmatic beasts. They looked at a performance that has seen Emap shares outperform the market by

resigned making a strong statement of their feelings and disappeared back to NWI and the Côte d'Azur respectively.

All we need now, and it looks a racing certainty, is a thumping punitive tax on alcopops in today's Budget. This will make no enemies, apart from a few teenage drinkers who probably have no idea which government is in power anyway, let alone any right to vote yet. It will play well with the health lobby, and allow money to be raised without hitting more traditional drinks such as Scotch and beer. Interesting to see, if the tax arrives, whether any of the producers will have the brass neck to stand up in public and criticise it.

Cidermakers not looking so rosy

□ MERRYDOWN is blaming

alcoholic lemons and other spiked soft drinks for a profits set-back. The last to try this trick was Matthew Clark, whose share price disintegrated this summer after claims that drinkers were abandoning cider.

Except that it turned out that problems at Matthew Clark were rather more deep-seated, and a well-regarded executive had to be found to carry the can and fired. Now Merrydown has awoken with a serious hangover. The company, through a tragic historical accident, was the first to bring the stuff to these shores, but sales of its Two Dogs lemonade have been savaged by the competition.

Perhaps there is some justice after all, then. The drinks companies split into two with the arrival of alcopops last year. Ken and Joe should simply have

ML in black but shares keep falling

□ THE citizens of Tyneside are being phoned at home by the bidder for their local power company and asked if they have received the offer document. Honest, no more than that. The Takeover Panel is looking into this, and should take a robust line. The antics of the double-glazing salesman have no place in a contested takeover bid.

By OLIVER AUGUST

FirstBus follows acquisition trail

By OLIVER AUGUST

□ FIRSTBUS, the successor to the Badgerline and GRT bus operators, has driven up pre-tax profits to £23 million, from £9 million, in the six months to September 30. The money will help to fund acquisitions.

Trevor Smallwood, chairman, said: "Our target is to add shareholder value and the large number of acquisition opportunities available to us allows us to pick those that do add value and walk away from those that do not."

The operator bought 12 stores and two sites in the US from Ahold, the Dutch supermarket group.

Mr Bremner said that the relationship with Giant Food, the US store group in which Sainsbury has a 20 per cent stake, is being developed. Observers expect Sainsbury to bid at least £1.2 billion for the rest of Giant Food in the long term.

SHARES of ML Laboratories, the healthcare company, fell to a low for the year yesterday in spite of the group having reported substantial profits for the first time (Paul Durman writes).

Mr Smallwood said that both companies had been trading beyond expectations since their acquisition.

Operating margins on all bus operations rose to 14 per cent (12.5 per cent). The company said it was on track to meet its target of 15 per cent by the end of the financial year.

Restructuring and other exceptional costs were £2.2 million in the half year. The full year charge will be around £7 million. The sale of two properties accounted for most of a realised gain of £1.7 million.

An interim dividend of 1.8p (1.6p) a share is payable on February 19, from earnings up from 2.8p to 9.5p a share.

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AIM boost for Pilat directors

Five directors of Pilat, the software designer based in Israel, will become paper millionaires next month, when the company joins London's Alternative Investment Market at an expected market value of £14.8 million. Michael Zukerman-Shore, chairman, and Samuel Saitz, who designs its software, are on course to retain a holding worth £2.27 million. Avigdor Kaminer will gain a £1.63 million stake. Avi Engel gains a £1.39 million holding, while Benjamin Moneta, managing director, retains a £1 million stake. The company is due to raise £2.2 million from the placing.

Homes up 1%

Scottish house prices rose by just over 1 per cent and sales were up 7 per cent in the third quarter of this year, according to the latest Scottish Housing Index. The figures, produced by the Royal Bank of Scotland and Scottish Homes, show a slowdown in the recovery of the market compared with the second quarter, when prices rose 2 per cent and sales were up 12 per cent.

Highams float

Highams, the Surrey computer consultancy, is seeking to join AIM through a placing which could value the company at up to £7 million. It is raising £60,000 to fund further expansion.

Christian Salvesen investors to share £150m special payout

By PAUL DURMAN

CHRISTIAN SALVESEN, the distribution company which this summer rejected a £1.1 billion offer from Hays, is to pay its shareholders special dividends totalling £150 million.

Salvesen also confirmed its leaked plans to demerge Aggreko, its fast-growing hire business that rents out power generators and air-conditioning equipment. Investors will receive shares in Aggreko, which is worth an estimated £400 million, within the next financial year.

Chris Masters, Salvesen chief executive, said the move was in keeping with the group's transformation from its past as a conglomerate. He said Salvesen was already considering these proposals before the bid approach, but conceded that the intervention of Hays accelerated the timetable.

Salvesen also announced a 14.7 per cent rise in first-half pre-tax profits to £5.6 million. Although Dr Masters described the results as "very good", the group made only modest progress in its main logistics division, which was held back by serious difficulties at the Esterre distribution system that supplies J Sainsbury.

The star performer was Aggreko, which increased op-

erating profits more than 30 per cent, to £23.7 million, on sales of £93.1 million (£76.4 million). Aggreko supplied more than 800 pieces of equipment to the Olympic Games in Atlanta. It reported strong demand for its power generators in most regions.

Dr Masters said Aggreko's growth had reduced the limited synergies it enjoyed with the rest of the group. "It's become a big business in its own right," he said. He was unable to say what management changes the demerger would entail.

Salvesen plans to pay two special dividends. In addition to an interim payment of 3.8p a share (3.5p) on February 3, it will pay an enhanced interim of 17p a share, costing about £50 million. The other £100 million will be paid by way of a foreign income dividend before the end of next March.

The dividends will lift Salvesen's borrowings to more than its shareholders' funds. However, Dr Masters was comfortable that interest cover will remain in excess of four times.

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The logistics business edged up profits to £23.4

Shares surge as brokers look to the 4,500 level

THE London stock market extended its pre-budget bull run with at least two heavyweight securities houses saying the best is still to come.

Kleinwort Benson is said to be taking an increasingly optimistic line while HSBC James Capel is forecasting the equity market will hit the 4,500 level before the general election.

It certainly had the bit between its teeth again yesterday, with the FT-SE 100 index surging 35.9 points to close just a shade below its best of the day at 4,054.6.

That will come as further reassurance to Kenneth Clarke, the Chancellor of the Exchequer, when he gets up to make his speech in the House of Commons later today. City investors are looking for a tight fiscal Budget.

Behind yesterday's rise was further heavy turnover on the futures market, which exacerbated short positions among leading shares and another record-breaking run on Wall Street where the Dow Jones average breached the 6,500 level for the first time.

Turnover generally remained on the low side with 775 million shares changing hands. Again it was the privatised companies that made all the early running.

There were gains for National Grid, 4p to 199p, BT, 9p to 377p, British Energy, 2p to 152p, after 161p, Scottish Hydro, 4p to 329p, and Yorkshire Water, 3p to 688p.

Among leaders Glaxo Wellcome put on 26p at £10.03 after a meeting over the weekend in New York with ABN Amro Hoare Govett, the broker, rating it a buy.

British Gas firmed 4p to 235p on reports at the weekend suggesting the group is thinking of divesting off its energy operations. Almost eight million shares had changed hands by the close.

Speculative buying lifted Royal Bank of Scotland up to 523p ahead of full-year figures on Thursday.

Elsewhere in the financial sector, HSBC jumped 20p to £12.65 on rumours that the group may be about to hit the acquisition trail. Word is that it may be looking to bid for Lehman Brothers, the US securities house. HSBC already owns the James Capel broking house.

Half-year figures from FirstBus, Britain's biggest bus operator, rose 5p to 191p after



Sir Anthony Cleaver and Peter Watson of AEA. 2p better

more than doubling pre-tax profits.

The oil sector enjoyed an early mark-up on the back of a recommendation from NatWest Securities, the broker. But reports that Iraq had agreed to toe the line on a number of demands, saw early gains pared back by the close. BP touched 70p before ending the session 4p lower

British Airways fell 8p to 596p after Credit Lyonnais Laing, the broker, urged clients to take profits. It says the shares have enjoyed a strong run and stand 8p below their high for the year. But until the situation with American Airlines is resolved, the shares may run their course for the time being.

at 692p. Shell slipped 1p to 996p, British Castrol up to £10.56p, while Lusmo ended 3p lower to 217p, after 228p, and Enterprise 1p to 577.1p, after 597.1p.

Carlton Communications' £85 million bid for Westcountry Television sparked the rest of the media sector into some action. Capital Radio rose 12p to 586p, and Yorkshire Tees 2p to 688p.

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THE
TIMES
CITY
DIARY

Wrong day for
Large audience

WHAT happens when two top dignitaries, Sir Andrew Large and Ken Clarke, have important announcements fixed for the same time? Nothing.

While the Chancellor is presenting his Budget at 3.30pm today, Sir Andrew will be hosting a press conference on the commodities markets arranged in the wake of the copper scandal. Both men are on the campaign trail: Clarke for the re-election of the Conservatives and Large to extend his tenure at the SIB. Large will probably struggle to get much of an audience.

Puppies tale

A CUT-PRICE offer that Ken Clarke can't refuse: the chance to have his entire stock of faded Hush Puppies resold at £5 off the original price, courtesy of Timpsons, the shoe repair chain. If the Chancellor agrees, chairman John Timpson promises to donate an extra £500 to Centrepoint, the charity and housing association. Elsewhere in the City, Timpsons is keeping a "Footsie index" of money-off vouchers redeemed in its shops. HSBC employees have the best-dressed feet, followed by BZW and Natwest, according to the chain. Clifford Chance, KPMG, and J.P. Morgan, are among those down at heel.



"Pull up — another one behind"

BUSINESS editors were somewhat bemused to be sent an invitation to spend today at a health farm. What have they been eating at Walkers Snack Foods that induced them to pick Budget day to launch a new product? Stranger still, why did they choose fat-free Henlow Grange Health Farm, with the entitlement of a complimentary treatment at the venue?

Forest baffle

A BATTLE royal is in prospect to buy Nottingham Forest, the troubled Premiership football club. On one side is former Spurs boss Irving Scholar and football author Phil Soar. On the other is a consortium including Charlie Scott, the cricket-crazy chairman of advertising group Cordiant. Although not a football fan, Scott is a non-executive director of sporting clothes chain Adidas. Pity then that Forest recently extended its kit deal with rivals Umbro until the year 2000.

Camelot raffle

GUESTS at Camelot's second anniversary dinner in London at the weekend were invited to enter a raffle, at £5 a pop. Keith Todd, chief executive of ICL, a Camelot shareholder, won a Psion organiser (just what you need when you run a computer company). Against all odds, his wife, Anne, won tickets to the theatre and dinner at the Savoy, while Harvey Rands, the lawyer acting for Guy Snowdon in the Branson bribe row, won a hi-fi stereo sound concorder. Just as well that Peter Davis, the obdurate lottery regulator, wasn't there. With his luck, he would have won the £500 Tiffany vouchers and £250 Harrods vouchers, donated by GTech.

MORAG PRESTON

The Budget options: we leave you space for your own record

Checklist for the Chancellor's speech

CURRENT POSITION		WHAT THE EXPERTS PREDICT		WHAT HAPPENS	
Treasury:	2.5%	1997:	3.25%		
City:	2.5%		3.35%		
Treasury:	2.7%	1997:	2.25%		
City:	2.7%		3.00%		
Treasury:	1996: £5.5 billion	1997:	£1.5 billion		
City:	£2.0 billion		£5.0 billion		
Treasury:	1996: £26.5 billion	1997:	£25.1 billion		
City:	£22.0 billion		£23.0 billion		

In October, all the major sources of tax receipts were coming above the Treasury's forecasts. Central government receipts were up 7.5% in the year so far compared with 5.3% expected. However, spending was also overshooting, up 4.5% compared with 2.9% planned.

After October's unexpected £2.4 billion repayment of public borrowing, the City is likely to revise away from its pessimism on the public finances. Many economists think that the Chancellor will now hit his 1996/97 forecast and even undershoot it. The Chancellor is likely to leave his forecast for the year unchanged but may, if he opts for a tight Budget, be able to revise down his forecast for the year after.

Despite October's very good tax receipts, the City still expects the Chancellor to deliver a relatively tight Budget. Some discretionary progress in bringing down borrowing last year and his scepticism about whether large tax cuts would prove popular with voters. If there are no tax cuts, these are expected to be no more than £3 billion.

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Shares squeezed higher again

TRADING PERIOD: Settlement takes place five business days after the day of trade. Changes are calculated on the previous day's close, but adjustments are made when a stock is ex-dividend. Changes, yields and price/earnings ratios are based on middle prices.

1995	High	Low	Company	Price	Yield	%	PE
446	419	417	Alfred Dunhill	454.4	3	6.4	13.0
425	427	426	Altria (Mk)	524	2	11.2	12.0
121	122	121	Amico (Mk)	69	1	6.2	73.0
527	527	527	Amico (S)	524	1	6.2	73.0
620	621	620	Amoco (A)	882	10	1.9	12.0
423	424	423	Amoco (S)	882	10	1.9	12.0
493	495	495	Amoco (S)	457	10	4.2	14.2
378	379	378	Amoco (S)	311.4	24	1.5	12.0
111	112	111	Amoco (S)	311.4	24	1.5	12.0
2512	2512	2512	Amoco (S)	311.4	24	1.5	12.0
111	112	111	Amoco (S)	52.9	12.2	1.2	12.0
1401	1401	1401	Amoco (S)	467.4	16	2.2	12.0

ALCOHOLIC BEVERAGES

1995	High	Low	Company	Price	Yield	%	PE
605	605	605	Carlsberg	677.4	2	2.1	19.3
260	260	260	Diageo	295	1	2.5	16.2
248	248	248	Diageo	295	1	2.5	16.2
122	122	122	Diageo	295	1	2.5	16.2
107	107	107	Diageo	295	1	2.5	16.2
524	524	524	Diageo	295	1	2.5	16.2
123	123	123	Diageo	295	1	2.5	16.2
424	424	424	Diageo	295	1	2.5	16.2
125	125	125	Diageo	295	1	2.5	16.2
126	126	126	Diageo	295	1	2.5	16.2
127	127	127	Diageo	295	1	2.5	16.2
128	128	128	Diageo	295	1	2.5	16.2
129	129	129	Diageo	295	1	2.5	16.2
130	130	130	Diageo	295	1	2.5	16.2
131	131	131	Diageo	295	1	2.5	16.2
118	118	118	Diageo	295	1	2.5	16.2
119	119	119	Diageo	295	1	2.5	16.2
120	120	120	Diageo	295	1	2.5	16.2
121	121	121	Diageo	295	1	2.5	16.2
122	122	122	Diageo	295	1	2.5	16.2
123	123	123	Diageo	295	1	2.5	16.2
124	124	124	Diageo	295	1	2.5	16.2
125	125	125	Diageo	295	1	2.5	16.2
126	126	126	Diageo	295	1	2.5	16.2
127	127	127	Diageo	295	1	2.5	16.2
128	128	128	Diageo	295	1	2.5	16.2
129	129	129	Diageo	295	1	2.5	16.2
130	130	130	Diageo	295	1	2.5	16.2
131	131	131	Diageo	295	1	2.5	16.2
132	132	132	Diageo	295	1	2.5	16.2
133	133	133	Diageo	295	1	2.5	16.2
134	134	134	Diageo	295	1	2.5	16.2
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■ CINEMA

A dangerous liaison with Roddy Doyle: Stephen Frears on the filming of *The Van*



■ MUSIC 1

The Wigmore Hall celebrates the 30th year of William Lyne's inspired management



■ MUSIC 2

Stockhausen in bulk, as the Huddersfield Contemporary Music Festival picks up steam



■ VISUAL ART
Heavy metal: we launch a daily series to mark the opening of the V&A's Silver Galleries

WEEK IN SILVER

A daily guide to the new Silver Galleries at the Victoria and Albert Museum, which open tomorrow



Gilded leopard

THIS is a Victorian electrotype of an English silver-gilt original, one of two sold by Charles I and made for display on his side table in 1600. The original leopards, 5ft high, are in the Kremlin in Russia, and in 1882 they were copied for the V&A by the firm of Elkington. The copies were originally on sale at the V&A for students and members of the public. The V&A now has two leopards, thanks to the sponsor of the new Silver Galleries. These impressive animals are the first thing that visitors see when they enter the Silver Galleries.

• The Silver Galleries, Victoria and Albert Museum, Cromwell Road, London SW7 (0171-938 8441)

TOMORROW: The Thistle Bowl by Gerald Benney

Honorary member of the Doyle

Matt Wolf talks to director Stephen Frears about his new film, *The Van*

Increasingly, it seems, there are two — or even three — Stephen Frears working in movies. The first is the street-smart political activist behind *My Beautiful Laundrette* and *Rosie Got Laid*, two portraits of Thatcher-era Britain whose professed aim was to lay low the Conservative Government, or at least Margaret Thatcher. The second is as a director of Hollywood stars — sometimes to good effect (Glenn Close in *Dangerous Liaisons*, Angelica Huston in *The Grifters*, for which Frears was nominated for an Oscar), sometimes not (Julia Roberts in *Mary Reilly*).

His new film, *The Van*, could be said to represent the third Frears. In 1993, he directed a film of Roddy Doyle's *The Snapper*, funded by the BBC and intended for television, only to have it cause a stir at Cannes and go on to an acclaimed cinema release in America. With *The Van* — again adapted from one of Doyle's Barrytown Trilogy, and a 1990 runner-up for the Booker Prize — the question was, could cinema lightning strike twice, with Frears establishing himself as that rare English chronicler of the Irish working-class?

The Van, though, received a more muted response than either its predecessor or Alan Parker's *The Commitments*, which was the first of the Doyle adaptations. Focusing on the shifting rapport between two friends from the north Dublin suburbs who lose their jobs and take to the

road, selling food from a van, the film has as much to say about claustrophobia — both emotional and physical — as it does about the giddy high spirits depicted in *The Snapper* and *The Commitments*.

"*The Snapper* was more like a fairy tale," says Frears, an amiable 55-year-old who studied law at Cambridge and came to movies by way of the

Royal Court Theatre. "This is more realistic; it has more to do with life. *The Snapper* was like a party. I would go home at the end of the day and say, 'Shouldn't I be working harder?'" This was much tougher.

"*The Snapper* was really a celebratory film, whereas *The Van* is very sad: it's about youngish men who are forced to consider themselves redundant, and they get a second chance and it doesn't work out."

The challenge was to extract from the material what comedy exists while making a film bereft of stars that audiences would nonetheless attend.

The best-known actor in *The Van* is Colm Meaney from TV's *Star Trek: The Next Generation*, who has appeared in all three Barrytown films. "It's quite hair-raising," Frears says. "You can see there aren't any car chases or sex or any of the staple products of commercial cinema; but the jokes are very funny and you try to get it right."

Anticipation, too, plays a part. *The Snapper* "sort of came from nowhere" says Frears, and received rave reviews which may cast a shadow over *The Van*. "When I made *Dangerous Liaisons*, nobody expected anything. People wore funny dresses, so everyone was very, very nervous, and when of course it

then emerges that you've made a film that is accessible and enjoyable, people are always delighted. At any given moment, I'm always trying to lower expectations."

Stars, of course, carry expectations with them, as Frears found not just on *Mary Reilly*, a Jekyll and Hyde retelling with Julia Roberts as a put-upon English scullery girl, but also when directing Dustin Hoffman, Genevieve and Andy Garcia in an earlier flop, *Accidental Hero*.

"I just think of Dustin or Julia as really good actors. I am interested in them as actors, so all the mechanism of fame as stars slightly bewilders me. I approach them all the same way — we have a story to tell, let us tell it — and afterwards I find that audiences deal with stars differently than they do with actors. I'm always rather perplexed by that; I feel slightly stupid."

He adds: "I think there are directors who understand that and can deal with that and make very good films as well. I don't quite know how you do it. I'm driving myself mad trying to learn."

Frears, who received no formal film training but learned as an apprentice to Lindsay Anderson and Karel Reisz on *If* and *Morgan*, has spent the autumn teaching at the National Film School. In the spring he heads for New Mexico to make his first western, *The High-Lo Country*. Martin Scorsese is a co-producer.

One film he won't be making, though, is an adaptation of Doyle's most celebrated novel, *Paddy Clark Ha Ha Ha*. "There are some directors who direct children very well, but I couldn't do it," he says. "And in any case, Roddy's got more serious, more severe, as a writer, and I like to say that I do his silly ones."

• *The Van* opens on Friday

Encores for the manager

THE old jibe is that nobody ever raised a statue to a critic. But I cannot recall many memorials to hall managers either. Perhaps all that will change. The affection and gratitude so richly displayed at the Wigmore Hall on Friday suggest that William Lyne — who has presided over that august establishment for 30 years — will surely be busted or plucked when he finally hangs up his planner's pencil.

Here, for once, was a gala tribute that was neither cloying nor insincere. Just great fun. Part of the fun was in not knowing who or what was going to appear next. The concert's contents had been kept secret even from Lyne, who sat in the audience covered in joy and confusion as one musical celebrity after another directed some well-turned line in his direction.

The Skampa Quartet launched proceedings with an exuberant account of Dvorak's *American Quartet*, and there was more string virtuosity when the cellist Steven Isserlis prefaced the first movement of Grieg's Cello Sonata with an arrangement of the gorgeous Intermezzo from Schumann's Violin Sonata No 3.

Then came a clutch of fine vocalists. Ann Murray ravished two songs from Berlioz's *Les Nuits d'ete* before turning to Irish ditty, including the tongue-twisting blarney of *Phil the Fluter's Ball*.

Joan Rodgers displayed the darker side of her vocal timbre in four Tchaikovsky songs; and Rosa Mannion sang Britten and Schubert (*The Shepherd on the Rock*, with Michael Collins darting through the clarinet part) with formidable power. Accompanying all this was a succession of fine pianists: Stephen Hough, Malcolm Martineau, Roger Vignoles and Julius Drake. Andras Schiff also appeared to deliver some sprucely-phrased Schubert.

The encores included the majestic Sarah Walker singing Kern's *Bill*, with Wodehouse's lyrics adjusted to suit the Bill in question. All in all, a party to remember.

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(*The Blue Danube*)

3. *Unter Donner Und Blitz*

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(*Thunder And Lightning*)

4. *Kaiser Walzer*, Op 437

(*Emperor Waltz*)

5. *Tritsch, Tritsch Polka*, Op 214

6. *Wiener Blut Waltz*, Op 354

(*Vienna Blood*)

7. *Pizzicato Polka*

8. *Wo Die Zitronen Blüh'n*

Waltz, Op 364

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Ticket to build: Germany plans to reconstruct its railway stations on a giant scale



■ CD CHOICE

The finest recordings of Debussy's *La Mer* are assessed in Building a Library

THE TIMES ARTS

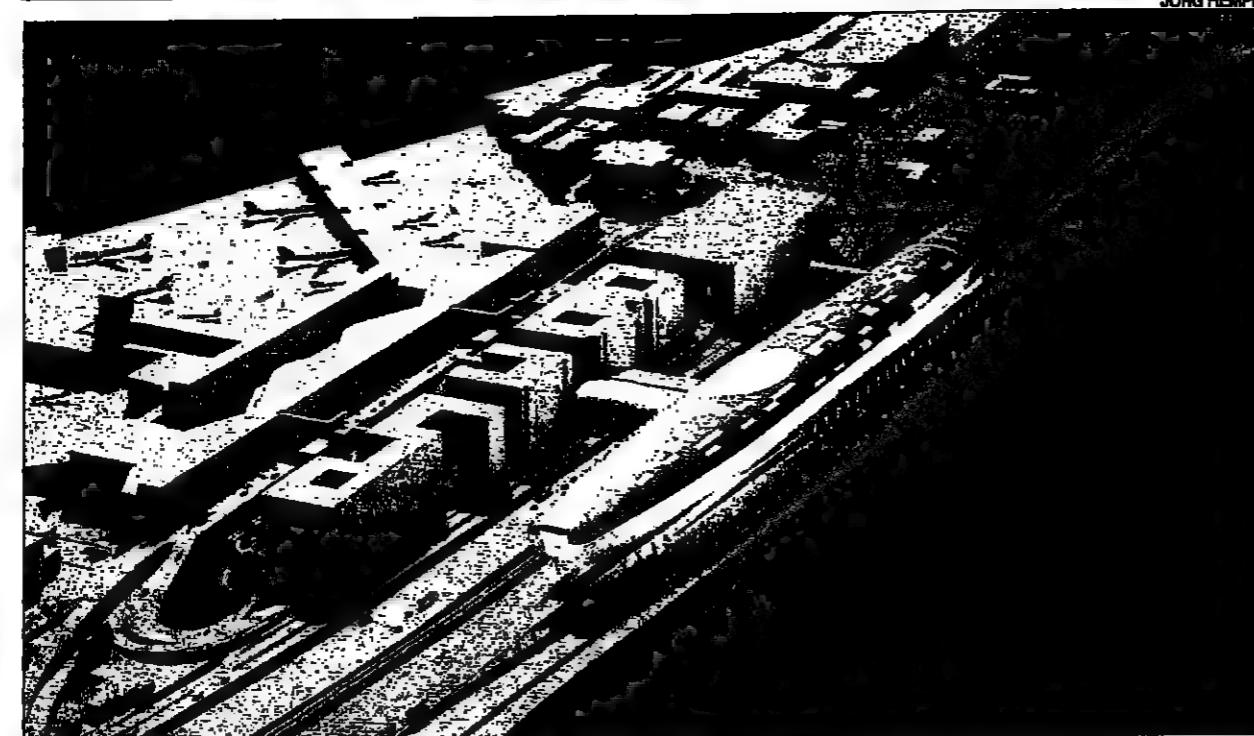
■ TOMORROW

Richard Cork reviews a stunning new exhibition of Vorticist art in Germany



■ TOMORROW

... and The Times Theatre Club offers its annual guide to the Christmas shows in Britain



The futuristic model for the prizewinning new Frankfurt airport railway station by the Hamburg architects Bothe Richter Teherani: apart from a station "fit for the times", the design includes a "UFO" (unlimited free-time object) with shops, cinemas, a musical theatre, hotel and entertainment spaces, and parking for 2,000 cars

Making tracks for the millennium

ARCHITECTURE: Marcus Binney
on Germany's breathtaking plan
to develop its railway stations

It is probably the most ambitious millennium project the world has yet seen. Germany is planning to rebuild its main railway stations on a scale that exceeds even the dreams of Albert Speer in the Third Reich. The new stations will be futuristic glass palaces with lightweight transparent roofs, covering a dozen platforms in a single breathtaking leap. They are loftier, lighter and airier than the large new airport terminals.

The architect Meinhard von Gerkan, whose practice has the lion's share of these spectacular commissions, says: "When the chairman of German Rail, Heinz Dürr, came

to our Hamburg office in 1993 I had no idea of the magnitude of changes proposed." The proposals for Stuttgart station alone are costed at a scarcely believable £2 billion. Already these proposals are causing huge controversy, from preservationists concerned at damage to the few German stations that survived Second World War bombing to Greens who believe such large-scale rebuilding of cities is a misuse of resources.

The changes are prompted by the new high-speed and Inter City Expresses (ICES) which, like Eurostar, will be 400 metres long. The main station in most German cities is a terminus, requiring drivers to change ends before a train can continue its snaking journey out round the suburbs. Under the new grand plan, the old termini will be transformed into through stations, shortening stops and cutting journey times.

New tracks will be brought in at low level. At Stuttgart they will be eight metres above the existing railway line, at Frankfurt 20 metres, and at Munich a staggering 37 metres.

Taking tracks down is a mammoth engineering task, and herein lies the key to the finance, for the newly privatised German Rail intends to roof over the sunken tracks and develop the new land in partnership with property companies.

The schemes have been on show at an exhibition, *The Renaissance of Railway Stations* (Germany's, that is, in Venice). Sumptuous models showed huge areas of land, 120 hectares at Munich, 99 at Stuttgart, made available for development with offices and housing laid out around generous parks and gardens.

It is London's Broadgate—but 20 times bigger.

Yet as the abortive plans for the railway land at King's Cross in London and the Gare d'Austerlitz in Paris have shown, the problem with this kind of development is that hundreds of millions have to be spent on engineering works before actual construction can begin. German Rail notes

say: "We don't like to talk about money too much."

The answer may lie in the fact that while the British Rail Property Board was assiduously selling off every last siding, German railways, both east and west, held on to thousands of acres of redundant marshalling yards, now potentially available for sale.

Heinz Dürr sees the new cathedral-sized concourses as ushering in a new age of calm, relaxed travel. "We do not have to hide behind the facades of shopping and leisure

centres. We want to stress traffic functions," he says. As soon as you enter one of the new stations from the street, you will have the reassuring sight of all the platforms and trains fully open to view below you. Visibility is all.

The Germans are also determined to reverse the trend to seediness around stations. "As long as they are centres of red-light districts, hubs of drug-dealing and a home to down-and-outs, there will be a heavy psychological barrier," says von Gerkan.

Others see station districts with their "cheap hotels and down-to-earth gastronomy" as the modern-day counterparts to the Berlin of Isherwood and *Cabaret*—centres for the fringe, for foreigners and the demi-monde", says Dieter Hoffmann-Axthelm.

The one new station so far built is at Kassel-Wilhelms-höhe, although a spectacular web of new glass canopies is taking shape along the platforms at Cologne. The really ambitious work is still on the drawing board.

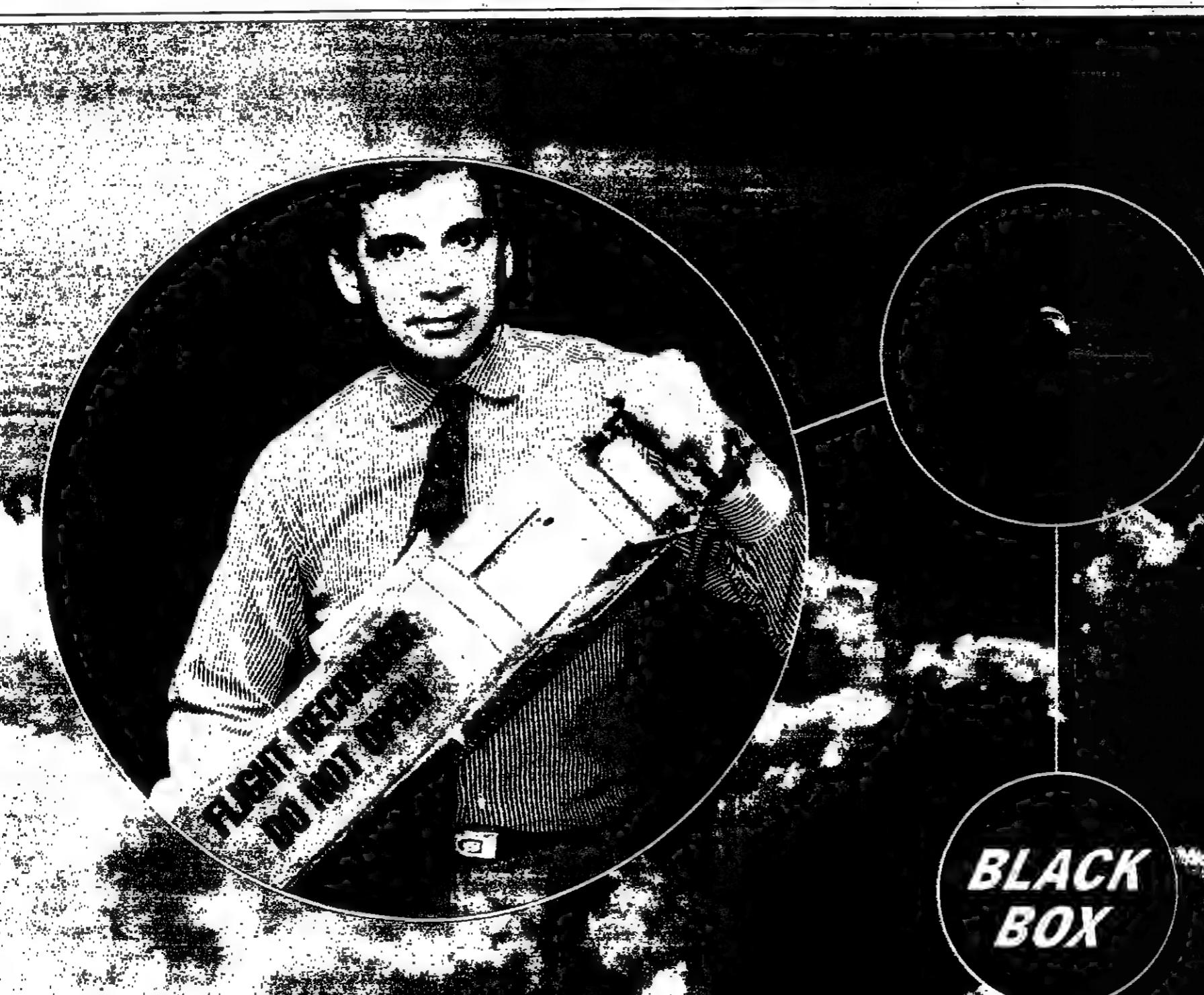
In Essen, for example, the architects Ingenhoven plan an arched roof as billowing and transparent as the Richard Rogers proposal for the South Bank at Frankfurt. von Gerkan plans a giant sunken hall with three tiers of arches supporting the existing iron and glass roof, all filled with bridges and stairs.

The most futuristic design is for the new airport railway station at Frankfurt. The architects, Bothe Richter Teherani, propose a vast 700-metre-long shopping centre shaped like a nuclear sub, above the station roof. They call it a UFO— "unlimited free-time object"—with shops, cinemas and parking for 2,000 cars.

Opposition grows in Leipzig, which has the grandest station in Europe after Milan. Some 30,000 people signed a petition against a multi-storey car-park in the station. Axel Fohr, champion of historic railway architecture, says:

"Both Leipzig and Stuttgart need further downscaling. Developers are offering heaven on earth, particularly in the east which is hungry for investment."

Dream or nightmare, this is certainly the most spectacular railway development proposal the world has seen.



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4

A guide to the best available recordings, presented in conjunction with Radio 3

DEBUSSY'S *LA MER*
reviewed by
Jonathan Sawle

DEBUSSY'S masterpiece has been variously described as "the best symphony ever written by a Frenchman" and "the musical equivalent of Monet's Impressionist paintings, Turner's seascapes, and those delicate feathered prints by Hokusai". It is all of these, and more: Debussy's translation of the ever-changing and apparently formless into a structure of shape and purpose is a finely balanced miracle of musical technique, with each detail scrupulously considered and placed.

And its mystery and majesty are governed by strict mathematics. One might imagine that no harm is done by over-admiring a wonderful view here, or prematurely whipping up a storm there, but ultimately such short-term tactics are detrimental to the whole.

All *La Mer* needs is a conductor who does it "by the book": the best players in the world to cope with the score's considerable and very precise demands; an alert recording team; and a sympathetic acoustic. Among the numerous conductors who think they know better than Debussy are Singspiel, Bernstein, Reiner and Lombard; and among those who are hampered by

indifferent playing are Barbirolli, Rahbari, Pommier and Barbirolli. A "big hall" sound is the preferred option these days, but large acoustics and distant microphones can blur detail, and victims here are Baudot, Rahbari, Simon, Jordan, Frühbeck de Burgos, and Järvi.

Usually for a survey like this (there are some 50 recordings available) one contender stands head and shoulders above the rest. The first of Karajan's three recordings with the Berlin Philharmonic, made in 1964 (and coupled with a similar vintage Mussorgsky/Ravel *Pictures at an Exhibition*) was reissued last year on DG's mid-price Originals series (447 426-2, £9.99). This offers effortless and limitless virtuosity: recorded sound that is present, finely detailed, wide-ranging and decently spacious; evocative magic to spare; but most important of all, a view of the whole that allows the work to connect as a symphony.

To order the recommended recording, with postage, send a cheque payable to The Times CD Mail to 250 Western Avenue, London W3 6XZ or telephone 0800 418419; e-mail: bid@naii.bogo.co.uk

Next Saturday on Radio 3 (9am): Bach's French Suites



LAW

• ELECTRONIC AID 37
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Ian Leigh on proposals in the Police Bill that may breach our civil liberties



Phone tap is easy to hide



The Police Bill includes proposals to legalise the surreptitious entry onto private property and the placing of surveillance devices by the police



Bugs can appear innocent

Legal bugs raise alarm

Peter Wright, the former MI5 officer, claimed in his book *Spycatcher* to have "bugged and burgled [his] way across London at the State's behest".

After the initial controversy, the problem of the legality of such operations was resolved by the Security Service Act 1989. This gave the Home Secretary power to issue warrants for covert "interference with property", as the legislation coyly describes it. If Michael Howard has his way, covert operations by the police will soon follow a similar path.

Amid the furore over the Government's sentencing reforms, its other crime bill — the Police Bill, which starts its committee stage today — has attracted little notice. This Bill includes proposals to legalise the surreptitious entry onto private property and the placing of surveillance devices by the police, which should cause serious public concern.

At present, where the police carry out similar covert operations to MI5 they are governed by a Home Office circular on the use of technical equipment. The placing of surveillance equipment on private property requires the Chief Constable's prior personal approval. A

circular of this kind cannot confer legal immunity, and the police rightly fear that, if discovered, they could, if discovered, face a successful civil action for trespass. No criminal offence is involved in planting surveillance equipment unless damage is done.

However, the existing practice clearly violates Article 8 of the European Convention on Human Rights, protecting privacy.

The European Court of Human Rights has in the past held that surveillance under a circular is not "in accordance with law" for the purposes of the exceptions to Article 8. It did so as regards telephone tapping in the *Malone* case in 1984. Should a similar case be brought involving police bugging, at present the result would be a foregone conclusion.

The Government proposes that the present system should simply be made statutory, with Chief Constables continuing to have responsibility for authorising such surveillance operations. There will be no obligation to seek approval

outside the police force, although an independent commissioner will be appointed to oversee the arrangements and to investigate complaints. This may not satisfy the Convention, which generally requires independent prior authorisation by a judge where a search is part of a criminal investigation.

The French law which permitted customs search without judicial warrant was held to violate the Convention in the 1993 *Funke* case. The Court of Human Rights objected to the width of the powers and the authorities' exclusive competence over their use. The Police Bill proposals could meet a similar fate in Strasbourg.

The legislation will also create several anomalies. The police will be permitted to authorise their own covert operations in the case of serious crime, while MI5 will still be required to obtain a ministerial warrant where national security is involved. Although a Code of Practice would be issued, there is a danger that each police force

will apply differing standards, with more potential for abuse than with operations carried out by a single organisation.

The police will need the Home Secretary's permission for phone tapping, but not for bugging, although the same grounds and facts may be involved. This will only encourage use of the least regulated investigatory technique.

For open searches, the police will generally require a judicial warrant, but not for covert searches.

This is paradoxical: where a search is unannounced, there is less likelihood of its being challenged later, and stricter safeguards against abuse should apply beforehand, not weaker ones. Whereas conventional procedures give special protection for sensitive material held by lawyers and journalists, professional confidences receive no protection under the Bill. The prospect of covert police searches or bugging of solicitors' or journalists' offices is far from fanciful.

It is unlikely that the courts

will act as a check on these powers. Earlier this year, the House of Lords condoned dubious police surveillance practices by holding, in the case of *Khan*, that a tape could be given in evidence although

the bugging device was placed by police officers who were trespassers. Clearly judges are reluctant to exercise their discretion to exclude unfairly obtained evidence. It is vital, therefore, that the new legislation should contain adequate safeguards for personal privacy.

Police-licensed break-ins should have no place in a democratic state under the rule of law. Parliament should think long and hard before approving these proposals.

The author is Reader in Public Law at the University of Newcastle upon Tyne. He is co-author, with Laurence Lissner, of *In From the Cold: National Security and Parliamentary Democracy* (Clarendon, 1994).

Teresa takes top billing

TERESA GORMAN, MP, is still fuming over the legal bills she incurred during battle with her council over alterations to her home in Essex.

She was one of the northerner guests at a lunch held by the all-party Lords and Commons Solicitors Group at the House of Lords last week.

During her planning battle she clocked up legal fees costing thousands of pounds. She took advantage of the lunch to complain that solicitors did not give enough warning about the cost of their services unlike her plumber. Several of the MPs and Lords responded by asking for the plumber's name.

Revealing fax

LAWYERS are supposed to be secretive about their affairs, but a survey by office equipment company Gestetner has found that technology makes them leave all sorts of confidential information lying about.

The survey found that many of the lawyers had discovered colleagues' CVs, salary details and confidential minutes of

OUTS

partners' meetings left on fax machines and photocopiers. Sending a fax seems to throw them. Faxing errors include sending a confidential document to a newspaper and a business plan to a colleague's home fax, by a partner planning to set up a rival firm.

Fair play

REGULAR users of the High Court will have noted a small gathering of protesters outside its doors every Wednesday afternoon. They belong to a

group called Campaign for a Fair Hearing and they have vowed to continue their weekly vigils until they have succeeded in bringing about sweeping changes to the justice system. A key aim is the separation of the judiciary from the executive to boost the independence of the former. The group argues that the Lord Chancellor, as head of the judiciary, should not be in the Cabinet. And it is claiming the support of some lawyers who use the High Court. "You are doing the right thing," one told them.

Poll position

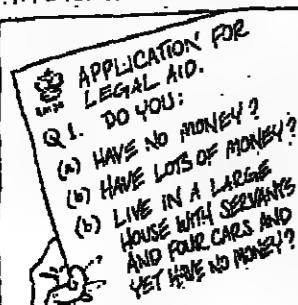
THE decision of senior judges on whether CPS prosecutors should be allowed advocacy rights in the Crown Court is keenly awaited. But do they want them? Last week's MORI poll of lawyers in the service (at least of the 75 per cent who are members of the First Division Association) threw up a fascinating fact: only 11 per cent favoured extended advocacy rights. Perhaps they feel they have enough on their plates.



Teresa Gorman: fuming

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Q3. ARE YOU:

- (a) GUILTY?
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- (c) BLAMING IT ON SOMEONE ELSE, PREFERABLY A DECEASED RELATIVE?

Q4. HOW WOULD YOU LIKE YOUR LEGAL AID TO BE PAID?

- (a) BY CHEQUE
- (b) BY DIRECT DEBIT
- (c) IN USED BANKNOTES

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STEUART & FRANCIS

Fighting back

FOR once, it seems, it is not the legal profession which is embroiled in a bitter debate about its complaints system.

Plans to introduce lay representation into the disciplinary system operated by the Royal Institution of Chartered Surveyors have sparked a wave of protest from within that profession.

The warring surveyors are employing the same arguments for and against the change to those recently voiced by barristers and solicitors during debates about changes to their complaints systems.

The choice now is between a self-regulating system that is trusted by the public, and the threat of statutory regulation (which would surely not be in the interests of the profession), was the contribution to the debate of Simon Pott, immediate past president of the RICS.

Meanwhile, the Law Society is quietly confident that it may have a winner with its new office for the supervision of solicitors. In its first few months, the new body, which replaced the Solicitors' Complaints Bureau, has managed to keep out of the headlines.

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Magistracy opens to public scrutiny

IT is five years since this newspaper ran the first national column on the magistracy by a magistrate. It highlighted the ordeals suffered by children when asked to give evidence in child abuse cases. The Criminal Justice Act 1991, which came into force a few months later, brought into use video recordings and live television links that have made the experience less awful.

Other problems related to children and families, the remains of 15-year-olds into custody because of the lack of secure accommodation and the huge changes brought in by the Children Act allowed me to continue to write from an ordinary magistrate's perspective. Four Criminal Justice Acts in five years — the latest due to fall on us soon — have meant a roller-coaster ride for magistrates. And apart from trying to make sense of this flurry of legislation, I also had hopes of trying to make the magistracy more understandable.

Five years on, there is a more open-minded attitude and there is much greater public interest in the workings of the justice system. This opening up of the magistracy has been one of the most important changes to have occurred over the past five years.

It started with the Schools Project, which was the brainchild of Rosemary Thomson, then deputy chairman of the Magistrates' Association and Richard Grobler, then deputy secretary of Commissions in the Lord Chancellor's Department. A pilot scheme begun in Berkshire in 1991 turned into a nationwide success.

Mrs Thomson, who retires as Chairman of the Magistrates' Association on November 21, sees it as one of the most beneficial changes to have occurred during her tenure of office. "We now have some 3,400 magistrates going out to schools and working with students to get across who magistrates are, what we do and how we do it. A lot of the work involves students playing the role of magistrate."

Although others might not agree with her, Ms Thomson is a believer in magistrates talking selectively to the press, something practically unheard of five years ago. She says: "There is a much greater willingness to talk to the press. I believe that openness is very important for an organisation which is delivering local justice to a local community and using local people to do it."

Apart from trying to make the magistracy less distant from the people it serves, she also sees an important change in the approach to sentencing. She became chairman of the association in 1993 when the Criminal Justice Act of that year abolished Unit Fines.



PAULA DAVIES

Agencies like the police, the CPS, the social services, the courts, the Probation Service and the Prison Service are operationally independent. According to Ms Thomson they have come to realise that a joint effort to solve problems together is beneficial particularly at a time of constant cuts in public spending.

The Criminal Justice Consultative Council set up five years ago and the Trials Issues Group are trying to solve problems like the need to get local inter-agency service agreements about the best way to treat witnesses, how best to deal with difficult offenders and more efficient ways of getting information to the CPS to address the problem of trial delay," she says.

After 25 years as a magistrate Ms Thomson believes that the magistracy should and sometimes does have a voice in the formation of criminal justice policy. "Legislation is a matter for politicians but the magistracy is now better heard, better respected and better regarded by government than when I started."

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James Morton explains how the public can make its voice heard

Changing the sentence

Does the public have any input into sentencing dangerous and violent criminals? The answer is that in a roundabout way it does and, in general, it doesn't choose to exercise it.

There are complaints in the newspapers about unduly lenient sentencing. Does anyone take any notice? Again the answer is yes. Sir Nicholas Lyell, QC, the Attorney-General does. After all, it is he who has the right to refer the case to the Court of Appeal with a view to resentencing.

The Criminal Justice Act, 1988 gave the Attorney-General 28 days from the date of the sentencing in cases such as manslaughter, grievous bodily harm, robbery, rape, cruelty to or neglect of a child and serious and complex fraud, to lodge an application for leave to refer the case for resentencing.

There is provision in the Criminal Justice Act, 1988 for all cases which have been heard at the Crown Court to be subjected to such a reference. In 1994 offences of indecent assault, threats to kill and cruelty or neglect of children, and last year complex and serious fraud cases were added to the list.

The application for leave takes the form of written submissions and, with the defendant represented, oral argument on the facts and law. Not only does the process act in an individual case but it also gives the Court of Appeal the opportunity to consider whether sentences for a particular offence need to be longer or, indeed, shorter, and to give guidelines. While the court might agree that the original sentence was inadequate, it may also leave the sentence unchanged if, for example, the offender is doing well under a Community Service Order.

How then does the Attorney-General learn of a case which may require a reference? The Crown Prosecution Service refers the bulk of the 160 or so cases brought to his attention annually. MPs of aggrieved constituents may write and about 12 cases a year are reported by members of the public, usually distressed relatives. A newspaper may also mount a campaign as *The Sun* did in a death by dangerous driving case last year.

In all these cases the Attorney-General will call for the papers. Curiously, although police officers as a body tend to moan about lenient sentences, individual officers do not write in, apparently



In the spotlight: Sir Nicholas Lyell, QC, can refer cases to the Court of Appeal for resentencing

preferring the matter to be handled by the Crown Prosecution Service.

Of course, not all seemingly lenient sentences qualify for the personal review the Attorney-General or, in his absence, the Solicitor-General, is required to give. It is not that the members of the Court of Appeal would have themselves imposed a more severe sentence.

The keyword is unduly. The judge must have appeared to depart seriously from the guidelines already laid down. One of the more notorious examples was the youth given probation for the rape of a young girl.

Including cases withdrawn because of a successful appeal against conviction, the annual total of

references crept up from 26 in 1990 to 81 last year. Most references come after convictions for robbery and grievous bodily harm offences, which over the years have made up 26 and 22 per cent respectively. The emotive offence of death by dangerous driving comes next with 14 per cent and rape accounts for just over 11 per cent. Manslaughter follows with just 5 per cent. There has only been one reference in a case of cruelty to a child.

The Attorney-General's record of successful applications has been between 80 and 90 per cent. There has, however, been a drop in the success rate, from 86 per cent last year to 69 per cent this year. Are there fewer errant judges, or is it because there is a new Lord Chief Justice?

If you, as a member of the public, seriously believe a sentence is inadequate write to the Attorney-General. Your comments are guaranteed to be considered.

The Times Law Awards 1996



THERE is still time to enter the competition for *The Times* Law Awards 1996 with One Essex Court and win up to £3,000.

Students are invited to submit up to 1,000 words on "The Law Lords in the 90s — a new Supreme Court?" The first prize is £3,000, the second £2,000 and the third £1,000. Three runners-up will receive £250. The essays will be judged by a panel led by Lord Mackay of Clashfern, the Lord Chancellor, and the winning entry will be published in *The Times*.

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Court kiosks dispense greater legal access

Richard Susskind
reports on how
new technology
will improve the
public's dealings
with the law

The Government's recent Green Paper on how government services may be delivered electronically is a glimpse of the future. It raises the prospect of information kiosks in the courts where people can obtain information about the legal system and the law.

Pioneered commercially in America and now also used in Australia and Singapore, these self-service court kiosks are designed to streamline a variety of complex legal procedures and are said to be easy to use and conveniently located in or near court buildings.

People use them like cash dispensers. They are faced with a computer screen and a simple keyboard. Available all day every day, people have user-friendly, multi-media and touch-screen information about the law and are guided through legal issues by a mixture of video recordings, colourful screens and the recordings of a multilingual human voice.

One system allows members of the public to pay their traffic violations, schedule a court appearance date and obtain information on small claims procedures and other court services. Another provides information about the upper courts and can produce laser-printed legal documents. These include the forms necessary for obtaining a forcible detainer (eviction) and even for the filing of an uncontested divorce. Once printed, the output is ready for signature, authorisation if appropriate, and then for filing with the court.

Information is also provided about the workings of the court system, alternative methods of dispute resolution and landlord and tenant law. The idea has already won the backing of Lord Woolf, Master of the Rolls. By dispensing legal guidance rather than cash, the idea is that court kiosks will provide basic guidance and support to lay people who would otherwise be reluctant or unable to instruct lawyers.

The idea is in line with the main thrust of *Government Direct*, the ambitious Green Paper which anticipates online compilation of tax returns, granting of licences, payments of grants and

benefits, as well as the provision of government information and the administration of regulations on screen.

The Green Paper in turn echoes recommendations earlier in the year from the House of Lords' Select Committee on Science and Technology in its agenda for action for the UK information society; and indeed last year's *Communicating Britain's Future*, the Labour Party's contribution to the debate.

There seems to be widespread

They will
provide help
to people
reluctant to
instruct
lawyers

agreement over the fundamental motivation behind court kiosks and online government — that non-lawyers (for whom ignorance of the law is, of course, no excuse) should be given greater, easier and cheaper access to legal information and guidance as can now be afforded through IT.

But while the Green Paper helps refine the technical case for kiosks, there is something rather bizarre about having such kiosks only in court buildings. If the aim is to render the law less forbidding and more congenial, insisting on a trip to the formidable environment of most court buildings may rather defeat the purpose. More than this, to require citizens to make special visits to special locations for their

consultations is precisely to miss the opportunities telecommunications afford.

Why not harness the power of electronic communications and make the information available at more popular sites, such as public libraries, post offices and shopping malls, as the Green Paper suggests for government services?

Looking ahead, one can also begin to question the assumption that legal guidance will be most easily digested and assimilated if dispensed through kiosks in the manner of cash. The original kiosk designers sought to offer access to the law through a medium with which they judged, most law people would be comfortable. Given the uptake in usage of cash dispensing machines, there must have been attractions in using that same general approach to human machine interaction. But looking just a few years down the road, we can be equally confident that there will be a far more pervasive and dominant mode of interacting with technology and that will be today's personal computer with some graphical user interface integrated into television technology. The likely avalanche of purchase and use of computers for domestic purposes will result in a level of familiarity with PCs which will surely displace cash dispensing technology as the most familiar way of dealing with machines.

In the IT-based information society, when the World Wide Web takes over from the bookcase as our major information source, it will become natural to turn to the PC or the television for legal help. And, to make matters easier still, before too long we will navigate around these information systems not by using keyboard and mouse but through voice recognition technology, by talking to our machines.

So purpose built, public access kiosks may turn out to be simply an interim technology, plugging the gap between now and the day when we can receive everyday legal guidance by speaking to our televisions.

• The author is a special adviser at Masons and the author of *The Future of Law* (OUP).

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As well as the more routine aspects of commercial law, such as the drafting and negotiation of contracts, you will be expected to deal with a wide variety of legal issues and required to manage a small team which will support you in your role. A good knowledge of UK and European competition law would be preferred.

You may be expected, as your role develops, to undertake project work within the international business, requiring overseas travel. Here you would be working with commercial and legal colleagues, often instructing and managing external lawyers working overseas.

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We are looking for a lawyer with the professional expertise and commercial acumen to manage a challenging workload of diverse commercial legal issues. You must have around 3 to 4 years' professional legal experience as a solicitor or barrister, gained either in private practice or in industry. Experience of working with or for commercial clients is crucial and you must already have demonstrated the quality of your judgement in commercial matters.

We offer a generous salary and benefits package, together with excellent scope for future career development. So, if you're interested in a challenging commercial role with a world-class company, contact our advising consultants at In-House Legal, Gareth Chambers or Lindsey Newman, on 0171 405 0151 (evenings and weekends on 0171 609 6857) or send your cv to them at In-House Legal, 17 Red Lion Square, London WC1R 4QH. Fax: 0171 831 6498. E-mail: hwgroup@hwgroup.co.uk

**IN-HOUSE
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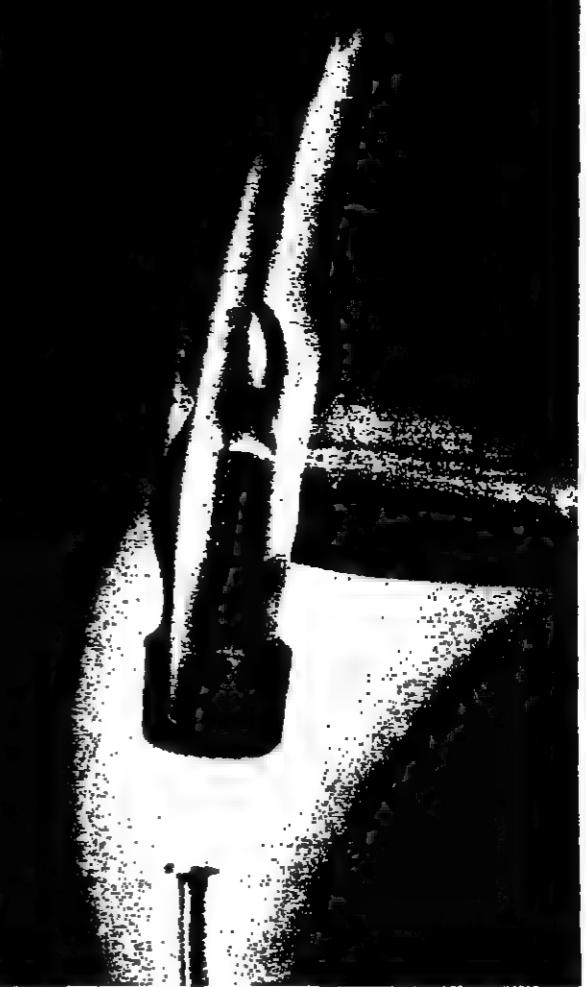
Success breeds success, and to continue satisfying demand we are seeking to recruit construction and engineering lawyers into our London, Manchester and Leeds offices.

You will have a track record of excellence in the construction and engineering field, and have, ideally, 2-5 years' post qualification experience. Your approach to client care must match our philosophy to provide outstanding service, designed to secure our clients' commercial objectives.

To find out more please contact our advising consultant, Jonathan Brenner, on 0171 377 6816, or write to him at ZMB, 37 Sun Street, London EC2M 2PY. Confidential fax 0171 247 5174.

Alternatively please contact Andrew Russell on 0161 288 4598 or write to him at ZMB North, Portland Tower, Portland Street, Manchester M1 3LE.

If you prefer, you can telephone our National Head of Construction and Engineering, Mary Hilton, on 0113 284 7000.



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We are a 40 partner City firm well known for the quality and strength of our property department which acts for major institutions, property companies, developers and retailers on the most demanding of transactions.

We wish now to appoint another property partner who will be a proven rainmaker able to work alongside the Head of Department in developing our property practice.

The Partnership is committed to making an appointment of the highest quality and this will be reflected in the partnership package available. This is an unusual opportunity to play a major part in the continued development of a well motivated and successful team.

For further information in the strictest confidence, please contact Dominique Graham, on 0171 430 1711 or write to her at Graham Gill & Young, 46 Kingsway, London WC2B 6EN.

GG
GRAHAM GILL & YOUNG

Property: Brewery & Leisure
City Salary: Partnership Ambition Pre-requisite

Established in 1985 Kimbell & Co legitimately claim to be one of the most distinctive private practices. With a partnership drawn entirely from major City firms and an enviable client base, the past decade has seen them successfully develop as a niche commercial firm.

An unrivalled opportunity exists at the Milton Keynes office within a dedicated Brewery and Leisure team. Widely recognised as a leading force in this challenging and diverse area of law our client currently represents an expanding portfolio boasting several household name breweries.

Frustrated with restricted partnership prospects and desiring more varied commercial exposure the successful applicant will blend technical and personal property experience with a brewery/leisure background advantageous. Within the partnership firmly on the agenda you must exhibit the marketing skills required to drive the practice on and justify the outstanding salary and benefits package. To discuss this opportunity in complete confidence please contact Michael B. Eng (Hons). Alternatively, send your CV and a recent reference number 23891.

PSD

INVESTOR IN PEOPLE

INVESTOR IN PEOPLE

If your legal qualifications are all you have to offer, goodbye.

ASSISTANT SOLICITORS • COMPANY/COMMERCIAL DIVISION

Everyone deserves a life outside work. However impressive their professional qualifications, someone whose life is focused solely on work may not bring as much to the firm, or the deal, as the more rounded individual. Following a number of recent high profile lateral hires, we need several such rounded people urgently.

And in our search for Assistant Solicitors - ideally with up to five years' post-qualification experience - the last thing we're looking for is people who measure success by their tally of recent "all-nighters".

We're interested in people whose breadth of external interests and activities can add all-round flair and individual personality to what must be one of the most progressive major partnerships based in the City.

Our Company/Commercial Division - part of a firm with a 150-year tradition of pre-eminence - is expanding

fast, both across Europe and in the Far East. Our caseload of M&A's, M&B's and acquisitions - an excellent mix of work for a truly international client base - is creating a tangible sense of momentum and opportunity.

In short, if you want to enjoy your career as well as excel in it, you'll find the opportunities to make your presence felt are, relatively speaking, a real breath of fresh air.

Start getting your priorities right. Contact our advising consultants Andrew Golding or Jim Moore, on 0171 377 0510 (0171 241 1219 evenings/weekends), or write to them at Zark Macrae Bremner, 37 Sun Street, London EC2M 2PY. Confidential fax 0171 247 5174. E-mail: Andy@zmb.co.uk

Alternatively speak directly to Anthony Rose at Barlow Lyell & Gilbert on 0171 247 2277.



PRIVATE PRACTICE - LONDON

1.11. CORPORATE HEAD TO £700,000

A firm which on any case would be considered a New York practice has now committed to establishing a full scale UK practice which will be corporate led. The cornerstone of its London office will therefore be the recruitment of a heavyweight City corporate finance partner almost certainly from a top 20 London firm whose firm's task, having been integrated into the firm's culture, will be to recruit a core team of up to 20 fee-related practitioners. This role is likely to be one of the highest profile in the City in the next 2 years. (Ref:7717)

CORPORATE RETRAIN

The large number of corporate work in the City means that many of the 10 City firms are instructed in lawyers (whether solicitors or barristers) with top flight academics and, most importantly, a genuine desire to specialise in mainstream corporate or finance transactions. Relevant previous experience is not essential as full training/re-training will be given. (Ref:7631)

SENIOR PROPERTY ASSISTANT TO £70,000

Unusual opening at London office of prestigious US firm. The Client is seeking an increasing throughput of property work which it would like to be able to handle "in-house"; it therefore seeks an assistant ideally 5-8 years qualified at one of the top 20 City firms with the confidence to take on responsibility for setting up this function. Prospects for partnership are excellent at the London office as a whole, and property group. (Ref:6513)

CITY CORPORATE FINANCE TO £50,000

This top five City firm needs a number of assistants (up to four qualified) to join its already large, leading corporate finance and an increasing in-house corporate finance and banking manager to assist on some of the City's highest profile UK and international corporate and financial transactions. The firm offers unrivalled career opportunities and a chance to make your mark in one of the City's finest corporate practices. (Ref:6509)

CAPITAL MARKETS EXCEPTIONAL

Capital markets remains an area in huge demand, both within private practice and banks. Our Client, arguably the leading City firm in this area, is looking for outstanding capital markets lawyers (with either debt or equity experience) who are keen to work at the cutting edge of development in this field. Remuneration package outstanding for the right candidate. (Ref:6521)

SHIPPING TO £70,000

London office of fast growing regional practice with strong core shipping team handling both mainstream banking and capital markets work seeks to add strength and depth across the full spectrum of finance practice. You will be a senior assistant or a junior partner who is excited by the challenge of working in a young, extremely energetic environment and challenging the conventional distribution of City banking work, and have experience of mainstream banking, syndicated lending and some asset finance. (Ref:7997)

BANKING/JUNIOR PARTNER £80-100,000

London office of fast growing regional practice with strong core banking team handling both mainstream banking and capital markets work seeks to add strength and depth across the full spectrum of finance practice. You will be a senior assistant or a junior partner who is excited by the challenge of working in a young, extremely energetic environment and challenging the conventional distribution of City banking work, and have experience of mainstream banking, syndicated lending and some asset finance. (Ref:7997)

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ZARAK MACRAE BRENNER

SHIPPING

Warne and Lara poised to play significant roles in final act

FROM ALAN LEE
CRICKET CORRESPONDENT
IN BRISBANE

BRISBANE (fourth day of five): West Indies, with nine second-innings wickets in hand, need 331 runs to beat Australia.

THE popular yet simplistic notion that this heavyweight series will be decided by just two players received a hint of credibility yesterday. To the unconcealed delight of cricket's swelling army of publicists, the first Test, at the Gabba, had become a scrap between Brian Lara and Shane Warne.

For four days, on a slow and true pitch, Australia had controlled affairs without summoning either the nerve or the muscle to administer the knockout blow. With a single day remaining, it began to seem that only Warne could do the job and that only Lara was likely to stop him.

Beyond argument, Mark Taylor's refusal to enforce the follow-on had prolonged the contest, hardening West Indies' resolve just when it seemed at breaking point. Yet as Taylor satisfied part one of his stubborn plan, setting a target of 420 in the equivalent of four sessions, one sensed that something exceptional was required from Lara if the tactics were not to be vindicated by victory.

There could scarcely have been a more compelling last-day scenario. One West Indies wicket had been lost, inevitably to Warne, but Lara was counter-attacking with a verve that led some, fancifully, to seek odds on the target being met.

Australia's three-seam bowlers had looked no better than workmenlike, despite the first signs of uneven bounce from one end, and it was Warne, wheeling away with a new intensity, who held the key to West Indies' destiny, and to Taylor's deliverance.

Well-justified fears surrounded Warne as this series approached. He had played little cricket for six months and he admitted, on the eve of the game, that retirement had



Warne is congratulated by Mark Waugh after dismissing Samuels, the West Indies opening batsman, for 29

crossed his mind. Even if his spinning finger stood up after surgery, there was the risk that his suspect shoulder would let him down, as has happened to so many leg spinners.

These doubts will not go away, but they will recede to a respectful distance if and when Warne demonstrates an unimpaired capacity to win matches like no other bowler alive. He knew this when Taylor summoned him to the attack for only the tenth over of the West Indies' innings yesterday, and he did not flinch from the responsibility.

In the first innings here, Warne had been tentative, offering less than usual in the way of variation, more than usual in the way of free gifts. Now, on a pitch beginning to wear, and with the rough of footmarks to help him against the four left-handers in the

West Indies top six, he began to command renewed respect.

Robert Samuels, the first of the left-handers, was immediately ill at ease. Warne, trim of figure after a recent diet and training regime, indulged in a sequence of grunts and whoops, but when, in his fourth over, he took Samuels' wicket, it was in bizarre circumstances.

The first ball of the over was smoothly picked up over mid-wicket for six. The second beat Samuels comprehensively, but the third, too short, was pulled for four. Warne dropped the fourth short again and Samuels, too casual, flapped it straight to long leg, where Paul Reiffel dropped it. Warne then left

Samuels groping with a googly and the last ball of a remarkable over took the outside edge, flicked the pad of Ian Healy and was safely pouched by Taylor at slip.

Lara had baited with conspicuous self-restraint in the first innings, but now he reverted to type. McGrath almost caught him off his own bowling and his compulsion to come down the pitch to Warne was once close to calamitous; but he reached the close looking ominous.

Taylor's batting form is far from fluent, but he is one of those players who makes runs even when patently off-colour. It was easy for nobody yesterday, the West Indies quick bowlers performing with such regimented efficiency that even Mark Waugh was driven to frustrated, undignified slogs in an attempt to hasten the scoring.

Only Healy played without inhibition, increasing his unbeaten aggregate to 206 in the match. Healy will remember this match fondly, but Steve Waugh will not. His groin injury prevented him from taking any part yesterday and he will miss the second Test, which begins in Sydney on Friday.

RUGBY UNION

Leading clubs leaning towards peace at last

BY DAVID HANDS, RUGBY CORRESPONDENT

ENGLAND'S leading clubs had more on their minds yesterday than the draw for the fifth round of the Pilkington Cup to be played on December 21. Tomorrow their representatives must thrash out their future relationship with the Rugby Football Union (RFU).

As one first division club executive put it: "Nobody out there loves Epruc [the English Professional Rugby Union Clubs] and many of us believe the time has come to end the dispute with the RFU and get on with the business of running efficient clubs." Therefore, the meeting at Leicester tomorrow should feature some strong debate as the does seek a two-thirds majority in favour of accepting the RFU's proposed agreement.

Notionaly, the meeting is

designed to prepare Epruc's presentation to the full committee of the RFU on Friday.

As the club appealed for

earlier this month. The feeling is growing, however, that the events of recent weeks, particularly the emasculation of the regional teams which have faced touring sides from the southern hemisphere, have cost Epruc any sympathy for their cause.

If that is the case, any

presentation that they may

make — however well-reasoned — would fall on stony ground.

Were the doves to

carry the day at Leicester, that

could obviate the need for the

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Craig and Scott Quinnell,

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Twickenham on December 7,

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Bath, the cup-holders, play

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Grasshoppers for Northampton:

it was Preston who

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Newcastle were favoured with

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FOOTBALL

Union says Notley case shows need for support

By DAVID MADDOCK

GORDON TAYLOR, the chief executive of the Professional Footballers' Association (PFA), yesterday offered support for Jay Notley, who has tested positive for the use of three different types of drug. Speaking at the players' union annual meeting, Taylor called for an expansion of the PFA education programme to help youngsters such as Notley, the Charlton Athletic player.

Taylor also unveiled plans to introduce a Europe-wide transfer system that he hopes will replace the one abolished under the Bosman ruling.

Taylor told delegates that there were important decisions to be taken over both the creation of a new transfer market, which he believes will ultimately help to protect the jobs of his members, and also an education programme to prevent a more widespread use of drugs in football.

Notley will face an inquiry by the FA, but Taylor said that he should be offered a second

chance to deal with the pressures that they encounter. He explained that the union, clubs and even the FA must develop a better understanding of the problems that young players now face.

The profile has definitely increased for footballers and they have to deal with situations that were not there ten years ago," Nevin said. "We have to understand the pressures of young players, but I think it is a very important point that, for all the testing the PFA carries out, there has not been one positive identification of performance-enhancing drugs. The main problem is with social drugs.

"If you look at the money we are spending, our largest expenditure is on education. We are trying to encourage clubs to follow suit and take on the positive attitudes of the PFA, because, ideally, we would like to ensure there is not a drug problem at all within the football.

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Taylor: call for education

chance. "At that age, the emphasis is on re-education and rehabilitation," he said.

"We believe he should be given a second chance. He's only 18 and it is important the game shows a caring side, because the problem is not just for football — it is one for society and it will not go away. No one benefits if he is sacked, the test for us is if we can cure the problem and set an example for other young players to follow."

He told the meeting of representatives from the 92 professional clubs that more efforts were now required from other areas to help to counter what will surely become an increasing problem for all youngsters, including those involved in professional sport.

Pat Nevin, the PFA chairman, explained that his union is channelling more and more funds into educational programmes to help young play-

ers to deal with the pressures that they encounter. He explained that the union, clubs and even the FA must develop a better understanding of the problems that young players now face.

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Djorkaeff's penalty earned a draw in the Milan derby that enhanced Hodgson's prospects of taking the Italian league title with Internazionale

Vintage Hodgson travelling well

Brian Glanville on a contest to try the emotions of Internazionale's English coach

By ROB HODGSON, the Internazionale coach, said that it was hard to give an analysis. "The emotion of the game was so great, I'll see it on video, two days later," he said. "Twenty minutes after the game is too soon for me."

The game was the Milan derby on Sunday, in which Internazionale had, in drawing 1-1, just about survived against AC Milan. The derby was Hodgson's third, none of which he has lost, and came just four days after he had agreed a £600,000-a-year tax-free contract with Inter, to win the title since Carver, with Juventus, in 1991.

"We have been in discussion with Uefa and they are in agreement with our suggestion that we have to look at a training period up to the age of 21, and then contracts which allow for compensation based on the training cost and the time that clubs have spent developing that player. We believe that will possibly help to stem the flow of foreign players into the country, which, if we are not careful, will become a torrent."

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After that came his appointment to the Switzerland national team, which he took triumphantly to the World Cup finals of 1994. In first since 1966, and to the finals of the European championship this year, for the first time.

The son of a Croydon bus driver, never more than an obscure journeyman footballer, Hodgson's managerial successes have been consider-

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IN BRIEF

February date for Lewis title rematch

LENNOX LEWIS' rematch with Oliver McCall for the World Boxing Council heavyweight title has been scheduled for February 7, but the venue has still to be finalised, with Las Vegas joining Wembley and Atlantic City as prospective sites.

Lewis's camp had expected the contest to be on January 24, so he has now delayed going to his training headquarters in the Pocono Mountains in Pennsylvania. "We are holding him back a bit longer," Paul Elias, his British promoter, said. "Remember, Lennox has already done four weeks' training."

Winning start

Cricket: A century from Ben Hollis, enabled England Under-19s to start their tour of Pakistan with a 52-run one-day victory over Rawalpindi Under-19s. Hollis hit an unbeaten 133 to help England to 273 for three. Rawalpindi could muster only 215 for six from their 45 overs, Jonathan Powell taking three for 38.

Goode goes

Badminton: Andy Goode, the Great Britain manager at the Olympic Games in Atlanta, has not had his contract renewed. The job is being advertised with a new title, director of performance. A leading candidate is Billy Gilliland, a Commonwealth gold medal-winner for Scotland in 1986, who has been working as coach to Canada. Goode has been told that he can apply, despite Britain's poor display in Atlanta.

Bray in final

Real tennis: Chris Bray, the Petworth head professional, and Mike Happell, the Australian amateur, survived the tightest of five-set matches to defeat James Male and Julian Snow, the European Open champions, 6-2, 3-6, 6-2, 6-5 in a semi-final of the British Open championship at Queen's Club.

Hall appointed

Golf: Julie Hall, the former British women's amateur champion, has been appointed secretary of the Ladies' Golf Union (LGU) in succession to Elaine Mackie. Hall, 29, who retired from top-flight amateur golf in June after Great Britain and Ireland's Curtis Cup victory, became the LGU's tournament secretary earlier this year.

Graf prevails

Tennis: Steffi Graf defeated Martina Hingis 6-3, 4-6, 6-0, 6-0 in the final of the Women's Tennis Association tour championship at Madison Square Garden, late on Sunday. It was Graf's fifth end-of-season title in the past nine years.

FOR THE RECORD

ATHLETICS
Fall running
SILVER: Mark Yorke, Rhine Edge, Hartlepool 10.40m; Mark Morris, 1, K. S. Morris (Hartlepool) 10.7m; 2, A. Whalley (Pudsey and Bramley) 10.39; 3, M. Horner (Caledon Valley) 10.30; 4, G. Green (Pudsey and Bramley) 10.29; 5, D. Oldfield (Bradford) 10.26; 6, D. Oldfield (Bradford) 10.25; 7, D. Oldfield (Bradford) 10.24; 8, D. Oldfield (Bradford) 10.23; 9, D. Oldfield (Bradford) 10.22; 10, D. Oldfield (Bradford) 10.21; 11, D. Oldfield (Bradford) 10.20; 12, D. Oldfield (Bradford) 10.19; 13, D. Oldfield (Bradford) 10.18; 14, D. Oldfield (Bradford) 10.17; 15, D. Oldfield (Bradford) 10.16; 16, D. Oldfield (Bradford) 10.15; 17, D. Oldfield (Bradford) 10.14; 18, D. Oldfield (Bradford) 10.13; 19, D. Oldfield (Bradford) 10.12; 20, D. Oldfield (Bradford) 10.11; 21, D. Oldfield (Bradford) 10.10; 22, D. Oldfield (Bradford) 10.09; 23, D. Oldfield (Bradford) 10.08; 24, D. Oldfield (Bradford) 10.07; 25, D. Oldfield (Bradford) 10.06; 26, D. Oldfield (Bradford) 10.05; 27, D. Oldfield (Bradford) 10.04; 28, D. Oldfield (Bradford) 10.03; 29, D. Oldfield (Bradford) 10.02; 30, York v Chester 10.01; 31, Carlisle v Barrow 10.00; 32, Liverpool v Warrington 9.99; 33, Preston v Garforth 9.98; 34, Blackpool v Wigan 9.97; 35, Fleetwood v Preston 9.96; 36, Hartlepool v Chester 9.95; 37, Hartlepool v Chester 9.94; 38, Hull v Wigan 9.93; 39, Hartlepool v Chester 9.92; 40, Carlisle v Hartlepool 9.91; 41, Dundee v Bradford 9.90; 42, Hartlepool v Chester 9.89; 43, Preston v Chester 9.88; 44, Hartlepool v Chester 9.87; 45, Fleetwood v Dundee 9.86; 46, Wigan v Chester 9.85; 47, Hartlepool v Chester 9.84; 48, Wigan v Chester 9.83; 49, Fleetwood v Hartlepool 9.82; 50, Wigan v Chester 9.81; 51, Hartlepool v Chester 9.80; 52, Wigan v Chester 9.79; 53, Hartlepool v Chester 9.78; 54, Wigan v Chester 9.77; 55, Hartlepool v Chester 9.76; 56, Wigan v Chester 9.75; 57, Hartlepool v Chester 9.74; 58, Wigan v Chester 9.73; 59, Hartlepool v Chester 9.72; 60, Wigan v Chester 9.71; 61, Hartlepool v Chester 9.70; 62, Wigan v Chester 9.69; 63, Hartlepool v Chester 9.68; 64, Wigan v Chester 9.67; 65, Hartlepool v Chester 9.66; 66, Wigan v Chester 9.65; 67, Hartlepool v Chester 9.64; 68, Wigan v Chester 9.63; 69, Hartlepool v Chester 9.62; 70, Wigan v Chester 9.61; 71, Hartlepool v Chester 9.60; 72, Wigan v Chester 9.59; 73, Hartlepool v Chester 9.58; 74, Wigan v Chester 9.57; 75, Hartlepool v Chester 9.56; 76, Wigan v Chester 9.55; 77, Hartlepool v Chester 9.54; 78, Wigan v Chester 9.53; 79, Hartlepool v Chester 9.52; 80, Wigan v Chester 9.51; 81, Hartlepool v Chester 9.50; 82, Wigan v Chester 9.49; 83, Hartlepool v Chester 9.48; 84, Wigan v Chester 9.47; 85, Hartlepool v Chester 9.46; 86, Wigan v Chester 9.45; 87, Hartlepool v Chester 9.44; 88, Wigan v Chester 9.43; 89, Hartlepool v Chester 9.42; 90, Wigan v Chester 9.41; 91, Hartlepool v Chester 9.40; 92, Wigan v Chester 9.39; 93, Hartlepool v Chester 9.38; 94, Wigan v Chester 9.37; 95, Hartlepool v Chester 9.36; 96, Wigan v Chester 9.35; 97, Hartlepool v Chester 9.34; 98, Wigan v Chester 9.33; 99, Hartlepool v Chester 9.32; 100, Wigan v Chester 9.31; 101, Hartlepool v Chester 9.30; 102, Wigan v Chester 9.29; 103, Hartlepool v Chester 9.28; 104, Wigan v Chester 9.27; 105, Hartlepool v Chester 9.26; 106, Wigan v Chester 9.25; 107, Hartlepool v Chester 9.24; 108, Wigan v Chester 9.23; 109, Hartlepool v Chester 9.22; 110, Wigan v Chester 9.21; 111, Hartlepool v Chester 9.20; 112, Wigan v Chester 9.19; 113, Hartlepool v Chester 9.18; 114, Wigan v Chester 9.17; 115, Hartlepool v Chester 9.16; 116, Wigan v Chester 9.15; 117, Hartlepool v Chester 9.14; 118, Wigan v Chester 9.13; 119, Hartlepool v Chester 9.12; 120, Wigan v Chester 9.11; 121, Hartlepool v Chester 9.10; 122, Wigan v Chester 9.09; 123, Hartlepool v Chester 9.08; 124, Wigan v Chester 9.07; 125, Hartlepool v Chester 9.06; 126, Wigan v Chester 9.05; 127, Hartlepool v Chester 9.04; 128, Wigan v Chester 9.03; 129, Hartlepool v Chester 9.02; 130, Wigan v Chester 9.01; 131, Hartlepool v Chester 9.00; 132, Wigan v Chester 8.99; 133, Hartlepool v Chester 8.98; 134, Wigan v Chester 8.97; 135, Hartlepool v Chester 8.96; 136, Wigan v Chester 8.95; 137, Hartlepool v Chester 8.94; 138, Wigan v Chester 8.93; 139, Hartlepool v Chester 8.92; 140, Wigan v Chester 8.91; 141, Hartlepool v Chester 8.90; 142, Wigan v Chester 8.89; 143, Hartlepool v Chester 8.88; 144, Wigan v Chester 8.87; 145, Hartlepool v Chester 8.86; 146, Wigan v Chester 8.85; 147, Hartlepool v Chester 8.84; 148, Wigan v Chester 8.83; 149, Hartlepool v Chester 8.82; 150, Wigan v Chester 8.81; 151, Hartlepool v Chester 8.80; 152, Wigan v Chester 8.79; 153, Hartlepool v Chester 8.78; 154, Wigan v Chester 8.77; 155, Hartlepool v Chester 8.76; 156, Wigan v Chester 8.75; 157, Hartlepool v Chester 8.74; 158, Wigan v Chester 8.73; 159, Hartlepool v Chester 8.72; 160, Wigan v Chester 8.71; 161, Hartlepool v Chester 8.70; 162, Wigan v Chester 8.69; 16

RACING

Cheltenham hit as grass-roots support withers

By RICHARD EVANS, RACING CORRESPONDENT

CHELTCNHAM racecourse is to ask leading trainers why they are shunning the headquarters of National Hunt racing after only 23 runners were declared for today's £42,500-added six-race card. The poor turnout comes less than two weeks after the three-day Murphy's meeting, at which small fields were the norm, and there is genuine concern over trainers and owners refusing to run their horses at Cheltenham.

Edward Gillespie, managing director of the course, said yesterday: "Like any business, if people stop shopping with you, you need to find out where they have gone and why. We want to speak to our customers to find out."

Cheltenham's task is simplified because a small number of trainers are responsible for a disproportionately large number of runners. During the past two years, ten trainers have provided 37 per cent of runners at meetings leading up to the Festival in March. Of those, five – Nigel Twiston-Davies, David Nicholson, Martin Pipe, Josh Gifford and Philip Hobbs – filled 24 per cent of the races.

Gillespie insisted that the ground was the same as it was on the Sunday of the Murphy's meeting – a mixture of good to firm and good. "It is not unusual ground for Cheltenham at this time of year and you would expect half-decent fields. Instead, we have fields you would expect on firm ground in October."

Nap: BETTY'S BOY (2.10 Cheltenham)
Next best: WEE WINDY (1.15 Huntingdon)

read to run but I'm not risking them on firm ground.

"Given that Cheltenham has three courses, I wonder if they watered one course a lot more than the others that might help. If there was a sudden deluge they could transfer the racing to a different track."

Cheltenham has responded to the criticism of its turf husbandry by calling in Peter Winter, from the Sports Turf Research Institute, to provide an independent report on the state of the grass.

The low turnout is likely to

reduce the number of spectators taking advantage of the free food on offer at Cheltenham this afternoon – and could leave an insurance firm with a \$1 million headache. Serenity Prayer, an American binder, who has won two Sport of Kings races at home, will win the bonus if he beats two rivals in the Newent Hurdle and wins the final race of the series at Cheltenham on December 14.

The Channel 4 coverage is particularly badly hit with just nine runners for its three races, but one does offer a betting opportunity. At Sandown 17 days ago, Grey Smoke finished a good second to Inchcailloch, with Betty's Boy 14 lengths away in third. With Inchcailloch having followed up at Ascot on Saturday, Henrietta Knight's runner is likely to be sent off favourite for the VFB Holidays Handicap Chase (2.10).

However, Betty's Boy was given a considerate ride at Sandown and, after travelling as well as his rivals turning for home, was not given a hard time when lack of peak fitness told. Despite being only 5lb better off with Grey Smoke, Betty's Boy can repay the kindness and oblige here, especially as the Knight stable is going through a quiet spell.

Mandy Mantino can maintain his unbeaten record in the Newent Hurdle (2.45) for the in-form Josh Gifford, while Hanakuma may have the edge in a match with Imperial Vintage (3.20).



Dublin Flyer tackles the Peterborough Chase at Huntingdon this afternoon

Gales Cavalier to surprise

HUNTINGDON CHANNEL 4

2.25: Marlouson and Lady High Sheriff were not far behind the well-regarded Peter's Gale at Worcester 12 days ago and should be thereabouts. Josh Gifford's horses are in cracking form and Gentle Breeze's two runs over hurdles suggest she should appreciate today's step up in trip.

Sprungswiit won a good battle with Mr Cotton Socks at Newton Abbot and has obvious claims, but may find it tough giving 7lb to Gaze Fane. From the same family as Gaye Brief and Gaze Chance, she won a bumper in good style at Fontwell last term and jumps well at home.

Lo Stregone's performance to beat the odds-on favourite in the Greenhills Grand National Trial at Haydock February, when ridden by my champion jockey, Charlie Sustead, suggests this National's through-trail, but is reportedly well and Swan has again gone booked for the ride.

It may prove significant that Ladbrokes offer only 12/1 about Tom Tote's charge, and Lo Stregone is excellent each-way value at 18/1 with the tote.

Gold Cup at Cheltenham ten days ago when in contention, who knows what the incident may have done to his confidence? Secondly, he may not be able to dictate the pace with Gales Cavalier, another front runner, in opposition.

Thirdly, Dublin Flyer is definitely a horse who goes

Coultou. A return to the form which saw him beat Viking Flagship in April could produce an upset over his ideal trip.

Kadi was a useful performer two seasons ago but has a lengthy absence to overcome, while the remainder look outclassed.

Teinein won as he liked at Worcester 13 days ago but the race was slowly run and he looks worth opposing with his big weight. Albemare and Zine Lane both appreciate faster going. Marius is reasonably treated but had several chances last year.

It could be worth taking a risk with Chef Comedian, who has not run for some time but possesses some good Irish form. Richard Dunwoody is an interesting booking for his British debut.



TODAY'S RACES ON TELEVISION

best when fresh, with most of his wins being recorded after a decent break.

Gales Cavalier looks to see out the three miles behind Unguided Missile at Haydock six days ago and had looked in need of the run on his seasonal debut behind

three out in the Murphy's

3.00: Dublin Flyer is the clear form choice but there are sound reasons for thinking twice before rushing in to take short odds about Tim Foster's popular chaser. Although he is physically sound, the worse for slipping before three out in the Murphy's

3.35: Teinein won as he liked at Worcester 13 days ago but the race was slowly run and he looks worth opposing with his big weight. Albemare and Zine Lane both appreciate faster going. Marius is reasonably treated but had several chances last year.

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GOLF

Lure of gold card attracts players of different strokes

FROM JOHN HOPKINS, GOLF CORRESPONDENT, AT SAN ROQUE, SPAIN

AS THE world of golf broadens to include more young men who have done little since leaving school other than hit golf balls, there is evidence that not every entrant to the professional game has come to it the conventional way. Take Stewart Cronin and Bryan Ingleby, for example.

In 1989, Cronin was a commis chef at a Walsall hotel. He earned £27.50 a week and had a golf handicap of five. That same year Ingleby, who was in his first year at Fitzwilliam College, Cambridge, was studying chemical engineering and playing off scratch. Yesterday the two men, now 25 and professionals, were striving to win a place on the European Tour next year at the qualifying school.

Cronin wears spectacles and has a receding hairline, which combine to give him an earnest look. "Professional golf was all I really wanted to do," he said. "I have come a long way in a very short time. I feel I have missed out. A lot of the lads played county golf. It would have been nice to have done that, but circumstances prevented it."

He and Ingleby share a sense of purpose that marks them out from the other 75 competitors, and it was not just because Ingleby was one of the few who pulled his own trolley. It was as if they were more sure of themselves and more mature than most of their rivals because golf had not completely dominated their recent lives.

Ingleby, for instance, could have started working for Arthur Andersen, the accountants, when he left from Cambridge, but, in the summer of 1994, he decided, instead, to turn professional and has since spent his time on mini tours in the United States and Europe.

"It has been expensive, but

Scores 44

worth it," Ingleby said. "I have just about paid for myself with my prize-winnings and I'll keep at it so long as my stroke average keeps improving. It was 74 last year and is 73.4 this year."

"Playing professional golf is something I needed to do to see how good I could become. My parents have been very supportive of me. They know it is open-ended, but only so long as I continue to do well."

Ingleby said: "I have realised I am not out of my depth. I have earned the right to be here. I have let my golf speak for itself. The pressure is off me because I know this is not my whole life."

With one round remaining

and cards available only to the leading 40 players, both will have their work cut out to get into that group. Brian Davis, the leader, is eight under par, Cronin eight over and lying joint-sixth, while Ingleby, at 12 over, is better off than three players in the 77-strong field. Mike McLean, a former tour winner, had an 80 and is 14 over par and joint-last.

Although the San Roque course seemed benevolent in the strong sunshine, only 13 men could beat its par of 72 as the pressure of this competition began to take its toll. Cronin went round in 74, Ingleby in 77.

Gordon Sherry's 75 was his second worst round so far and he is joint-36th; Stephen Gallacher equalled his best score so far, 72, and is joint-47th.

If, as seems likely, Cronin and Ingleby fail to gain their cards, they will be better able to cope with the disappointment for having known something other than golf. "I have been better for coming here this week," Cronin said, "but I have not been overawed."

Ingleby said: "I have realised I am not out of my depth. I have earned the right to be here. I have let my golf speak for itself. The pressure is off me because I know this is not my whole life."

Ingleby, 20 shots off the lead, cuts a lonely figure as he plays to the 1st green yesterday

AMERICAN FOOTBALL: YOUNG RETURNS TO PLOT DRAMATIC DOWNFALL OF WASHINGTON REDSKINS

49ers strike golden seam of quarterbacks

By OLIVER HOLT

WITHOUT John Elway, Denver Broncos would be rudderless. Deprived of Brett Favre, Green Bay Packers would not be half the team that they are. At San Francisco 49ers, though, things are different. Quarterbacks come and go, understudies step up and step down, and still the 49ers charge on.

In recent games, Elvis Grbac has stood in for a battered and bruised Steve Young, who seems to have been reeling from concussion to concussion, and San Francisco have hardly broken stride. They did lose narrowly to Dallas Cowboys two weeks ago, but Grbac propelled them to a comfortable victory over Baltimore Ravens last week.

On Sunday Young led the 49ers to a critical and hard-fought win over Washington

Redskins, one of their biggest National Football Conference (NFC) rivals and a team who, before the game at the RFK Stadium in Washington, held an identical record of eight wins and three losses.

Young completed 33 of 41 passes for a total of 295 yards,

paving the way for two touchdowns. The second, scored late in the game by Terry Kirby, a running back, took the match into overtime and Jeff Wilkin, the 49ers' kicker, sealed the win result with his fourth field goal of the game.

The 49ers are now level with

the Packers as the leading team in the NFC. Green Bay beat St Louis Rams 24-9 in Missouri courtesy of two more touchdown passes from their quarterback, scores which made Favre only the second quarterback in National Football League history to throw

for 30 touchdowns in three seasons. The only other man to manage it is Dan Marino, of Miami Dolphins.

In the American Football Conference (AFC), the Broncos extended their domination with a 21-17 win over Minnesota Vikings. It was achieved through a trademark fourth-quarter, Elway-led recovery, capped by the winning touchdown throw just 19sec from the end. Elway completed 26 of 36 passes for 334 yards.

Denver are way out in front in the AFC, but Buffalo Bills and New England Patriots are helping them to make this year one of the conference's strongest. The Patriots beat Indianapolis Colts 27-13 and the Bills completed another sorry day for New York Jets by thrashing them 35-10. Time is fast running out for Rich Kotite, the Jets' eccentric coach; his team have now lost 11 of their 12 games.

HEROL GRAHAM returns to the ring tonight in Sheffield. He has not boxed for four years and is 37 years old. In his time, in the eighties, Graham was by far the best boxer in Britain and is best remembered as the man who was impossible to hit; so much so that even Chris Eubank refused to meet him. Graham, though, having seen his imitators make good money, has decided to come back and see if he has enough left in him to cash in.

However, those who saw him knocked out by Julian Jackson in 1990 and then stopped two years later in nine rounds by Frank Grant, of Bradford, wonder if his reflexes can be sharp enough to keep him out of trouble in the ring.

Graham's reflexes were the never the same after his knockout by Jackson. His loss of speed and timing was evident when he failed to avenge his defeat by Sumbu Kalambay in 1992. Kalambay was then well past his best.

Graham's claims that, for his bout with Grant, he had not been himself because he had been concerned about his sister, who had been attacked shortly before the contest and taken to hospital.

Reports from the gym say that he is looking in good shape for the bout tonight against Terry Ford, a little-known American, at the Concord Leisure Centre. Ford is not a puncher and has been beaten three times in 16 outings.

Graham, who came close to winning the world middleweight title twice, is now boxing as a super-middleweight.

RESULTS: Baltimore 25 Jacksonville 20; Buffalo 25 New York Jets 10; Chicago 31 Detroit 14; Cincinnati 41; Atlanta 31; Houston 8; Carolina 31; Kansas City 14; San Diego 28; Minnesota 17; Denver 21; New England 27; New York Giants 20; Dallas 6; Seattle 21; Oakland 21; St Louis 9; Green Bay 24; PORTUGAL: Thursday: Detroit 20; Las Vegas 19; West Ham 20; Sunday: Baltimore v Pittsburgh; Carolina v Tampa Bay; Green Bay v Chicago; Indianapolis v Buffalo; Jacksonville v Cincinnati; New England v New York Giants; New Orleans v St Louis; New York Jets v Houston; Oakland v Miami; San Diego v New England; Monday: Atlanta v San Francisco.

NFL DETAILS: National Conference Eastern division W L T F A Washington 5 4 0 261 230 Dallas 7 5 3 0 228 191 Philadelphia 5 4 0 226 225 New England 5 3 1 0 225 225 Indianapolis 5 7 0 200 226 NY Jets 5 7 0 200 226 Central division W L T F A Green Bay 9 3 0 318 174 Pittsburgh 6 5 0 226 224 Detroit 5 6 0 226 221 Chicago 5 7 0 185 220 Tampa Bay 4 8 0 152 219 Western division W L T F A San Francisco 9 3 0 259 184 Carolina 3 9 0 220 224 St Louis 2 10 0 174 265 Last night, Miami v Pittsburgh, not included

American Conference Eastern division W L T F A Buffalo 9 3 0 257 202 New England 8 4 0 317 262 Philadelphia 6 5 0 226 225 Indianapolis 6 6 0 226 225 NY Jets 1 11 0 211 333 Central division W L T F A Pittsburgh 6 5 0 226 224 Houston 6 7 0 226 225 Cincinnati 5 7 0 226 224 Jacksonville 3 9 0 226 223 Baltimore 5 7 0 226 223 Western division W L T F A Denver 11 1 0 317 192 San Diego 11 1 0 317 192 Oakland 5 7 0 226 227 Seattle 5 7 0 226 227 Last night, Miami v Pittsburgh, not included

ICE HOCKEY

Panthers let prey get away twice

By NORMAN DE MESQUITA

IT WAS a bad weekend for Nottingham Panthers, beaten at home by Ayr Scottish Eagles and away by Manchester Storm, and they have only Bracknell Bees below them in the Superleague table.

Against Ayr, Derek Laxdal gave them the lead after 21 seconds and they were 2-1 ahead at the end of the first period, but the Eagles scored once in each of the second and third periods and hung on for a 3-2 win. Jeff Hoare had a wonderful opportunity for the Panthers early in the third, but Sven Rampli proved his equal in the Ayr goal.

The trip to Manchester was over snow-covered roads, making the journey extremely difficult and delaying the game for more than an hour. It looked at first as though the Panthers would not be put out by all their problems and they were two goals ahead by midway through the first period, but the Storm scored three unanswered goals in the second. The teams shared four goals in the third, but Dale Jago's first of the season restored the lead for Manchester and they held on for a 5-4 success.

In contrast, Basingstoke Bison won both of their weekend games to move into joint-fifth with Ayr, three points ahead of the Panthers. At home to Storm, Bison won 6-4 then beat Bracknell Bees. Although falling behind after five minutes, Bison won more easily than the 5-4 scoreline would suggest.

IN TERMS of raw potting ability, Mark Williams, from Wales, is unchallenged on the professional circuit. Further evidence of that was supplied yesterday as he built a 6-2 lead over Nigel Bond in the last 16 of the United Kingdom championship at Preston.

To coin a well-worn snooker phrase, Williams knocked them in off the lampshades in leaving himself requiring only three of the remaining nine frames this afternoon to secure a quarter-final against John Higgins or Tony Drago.

Williams' up from No 16 to No 3 in the provisional world rankings this season primarily because of his Grand Prix title last month, maintained the fluency that enabled him to defeat Tony Chappell and Yasin Merchant 9-3 in the previous two rounds.

Breaks of 79, 90 and 91 were the highlights of another impressive display from Williams, 21, a left-hander from Ebbw Vale who made his most significant breakthrough by winning the Regal Welsh Open in January.

Billy Snaddon, attempting to reach the last eight of a leading event for the first time, trailed Alan McManus 5-3 at the conclusion of their opening session.

Snaddon missed a simple yellow to a middle pocket on the verge of taking a 2-0 lead. McManus stole the frame on the black and, aided by runs of 72 and 84, accounted for four of the next five to take control.

John Spencer, whose resignation as chairman of the World Professional Billiards and Snooker Association be-

SNOOKER

Confident Williams puts Bond in shade

By PHIL YATES

comes effective on Saturday, yesterday expressed his anger at newspaper reports that described Stephen Hendry as "a Scrooge".

Hendry is alleged to have signed a different contract from his fellow competitors at the Liverpool Victoria Charity Challenge in January which frees him from the obligation of spending a day visiting underprivileged children. "Stephen has done as much as any player in the game for charity," Spencer said. "As far as I am concerned, he's a terrific ambassador for the game."

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Williams' confidence in his ability to beat Bond was evident from the start. He took the opening frame and, despite Bond's valiant efforts, Williams took the next three to lead 4-1.

Williams' break of 91 in the fifth frame was the turning point in the match. Bond, who had been 1-0 up, was beaten 9-5.

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Signs of life that are all too easily missed

Inappropriate diagnostic tests can go unquestioned for decades, it seems. People suspected of senility or Alzheimer's, for example, are still asked "What day of the week is it?" and judged by the accuracy of their reply. Little does it matter that they can recite the first chapter of *Jane Eyre*, or remember exactly where they left their cheque book. If they think it's Tuesday when it's Wednesday (like most people, actually), theoretically they are done for.

Last night's absorbing *Horizon* (BBC2) exposed the same sort of logical deficiencies in diagnostic tests for "persistent vegetative state". How do you test whether a person in a coma can hear and understand? Conventionally, you ask them to make physical movements: "Can you move your hand?" But this is harrowing, as was demonstrated. What does it prove when the hand remains still? Crucially, it doesn't rule out the

possibility that a person's mind could be buried alive, undamaged inside a paralysed body. That's what *Horizon* was about — the suggestion that in 500 cases in this country (the estimate sometimes dropped to 100), a mind might be active without outward sign. Geoffrey, for example, was diagnosed as a lost cause, but when given a buzz for answering "yes" and "no", was discovered intact. Nobody knew what had happened to Geoffrey: he'd been found in a train at Haslemere, and was found later with his skull broken. He was swiftly diagnosed as vegetative, despite the protests of his mother, who insisted he was alert. Challenging medical opinion was hard work, she said — though the analogy "like bashing your head against a brick wall" was surely an unfortunate choice of words.

But Geoffrey's mother was right. And once he could answer yes (one beep) and no (two beeps), or spell things out on a computer screen, he came back to her like a miracle. "GEOFFREY IS COOL" was his first, confident communication. "Do you know who I am?" she asked him. "Beep," came the answer. So it was cheerful news. In Germany, an inspirational neurologist is pioneering a brain map to identify mental activity; he also uses intensive physical therapy to restart the brain. All that remains, perhaps, is for the word "vegetative" to be looked at more carefully. It smacks too horribly of marrow and lantem somehow.

November Monday nights were made by *The Crow Road* (BBC2); and to be honest, it's a bit crushing to imagine life without it. *The Crow Road* was a breezy, Scottish version of *Hamlet*, with ghosts, dead fathers, and wicked uncles, and even bathtubs if you kept your eyes peeled. "Oh my prophetic soul, my uncle!" young Prentice might have exclaimed on any number of occasions (having any number of uncles). When it turned out that Uncle Fergus had killed not only Auntie Fiona but also Uncle Rory, a gift for quotation came in handy yet again. Fergus, feigning innocence behind his sandy moustache, smiled and smiled and was a villain. Joseph McFadden as the young

sweet, questing Prentice was brilliantly cast for the adolescent agonies of love and confusion — though the agonies in his case were expressed in the most minimal and quizzical way. Such a sweet boy! He could even be forgiven for inhabiting the same romantic triangle as Hamish Macbeth — unrequited love for unattractive blonde, while brunette waits tortured for his call. The difference here, of course, was that while Hamish Macbeth's Isabel scowled and wrinkled her nose, the precocious Ashley beautifully played by Valerie Edmunds kept herself cheerful and attractive while patiently waiting for his hormones to catch up with her.

The last great delight of *The Crow Road* was that when characters died, they stuck around, and always to good purpose. The expansive structure of flashbacks was handled with such elegance and clarity that no sooner was Bill

Paterson dead and buried (or him straight in any case).

Finally, *Billy Connolly's World Tour of Australia* (BBC1) reached Adelaide and Perth. From his posturorous Harley ride on a promontory, the big grizzled yin waved a pale, approving arm at Adelaide spread below. "It's a really nice place," he said. "A smashing wee town." And you could tell that Western Australia breathed more easily, knowing that the great man had spoken.

But much as Connolly's self-love grates continually, there was good stuff in last night's programme, and I liked one particular line of reasoning, about a sense of intrusion when humans swim blithely in the sea. If people are attacked by sharks, you have to ask "Well, where were they?" And if the answer is, "In the sea" then what sympathy do they deserve? As he so rightly pointed out, "Sharks don't come up to you in Woolworth's and bite you on the arse".

REVIEW



Lynne Truss

BBC1

6.00am BUSINESS BREAKFAST (7255) 7.00 BBC BREAKFAST NEWS (7) (54607) 8.00 BREAKFAST NEWS EXTRA (1) (6872423)

9.20 STYLE CHALLENGE (1072930) 9.45 KILROY (6831404)

10.30 CANT COOK, WON'T COOK with Kevin Woodford (683252)

11.05 NEWS (1) (2324317) 11.05 THE REALLY USEFUL SHOW (4942336)

11.45 SMILLIE'S PEOPLE (6786888)

12.00 NEWS (1) and weather (5685117)

12.05pm THE FLYING DOCTORS (2346978)

12.50 A DIFFERENT COUNTRY PRACTICE The physiotherapist (1) (7287978)

1.00 NEWS (1) and weather (37784)

1.30 REGIONAL NEWS (16940406)

1.40 NEIGHBOURS (1) (24855046)

2.00 SNOOKER: THE UK Championship (682249)

3.00 THE All New Poppy's Show (1) (6842335) 4.10 Oscar's Orchestra (5342794) 4.35 it'll Never Work Award-winning science series (1) (1583201)

5.00 Newsround (6038210) 5.10 Byker Grove (1) (215201)

5.20 NEIGHBOURS (1) (110572)

6.00 NEWS (1) and weather (595)

6.30 REGIONAL NEWS (539)

7.00 HOLIDAY: Reports from the French Pyrenees, Puerto Vallarta in coastal Mexico, Elat in Israel and Scotland's Caledonian Canal (1) (6715)

7.30 EASTENDERS: Nigel's mistake leaves Lorraine worried for Joe's safety (1) (423)

8.00 999: LIFESAVERS: True stories of heroism and bravery (1) (4133)

8.30 A QUESTION OF SPORT: David Coleman, John Parrott and Ally McCoist are joined by Stuart Pearce, Simon Gascoigne, Alan Stewart and Jane Skarsma (1) (3228)

9.00 NEWS (1): regional news and weather (4978)

9.30 BUDGET BROADCAST by the Chancellor of the Exchequer (1) (780713)

9.40 ONE FOOT IN THE GRAVE Comedy series starring Richard Wilson and Anneke Craymer (1) (725713) 10.00 West in the Country (1) (10717) 10.10 Own Food in the Grave (10-10) 10.15 Justice 11.30 FA Cup highlights 12.00 Snooker 12.40am-2.15 FILM: Summer School

10.15 ROUGH JUSTICE: The... 's Wife The team reopen the case of David Ryan James who was sentenced to 25 years for murdering his wife (1) (594930)

11.05 SNOOKER: THE UK Championship (161046)

11.45 FILM: Summer School (1987) starring Mark Harmon. A school teacher is forced to leave his holiday in order to teach a remedial English class. Directed by Carl Reiner (1) (288888)

12.00 FILM: Settle the Score (1989) starring Jaclyn Smith as a city policeman investigating a series of assaults in her rural hometown. Directed by Edwin Sharin (1) (535714)

2.50 WEATHER (2235553)

Videoplus+ and the Video PlusCodes The numbers next to each TV programme listing are Video PlusCode numbers, which allow you to programme your video recorder to record the programme. To record the Video Pluscode for the programme you wish to record, Videoplus+ (1), Pluscode (1), and Video Pluscode are trademarks of Gemstar Development Ltd.

BBC2

6.00am OPEN UNIVERSITY: Apple, Fleish and 'Reincarnations' (3315220) 6.50 Open: Advice: Science Skills (5837527) 7.15 See Hear Breakfast News (5863392)

7.30 Perils of Penelope Pitstop (4845939) 7.55 Blue Peter (7169132) 8.20 Fireman (6472152) 8.35 The Record (6472152) 9.00 Standard Grade English (6870095) 9.25 Geography Programme (1070572) 9.45 Watch (2825568) 10.00 Playdate (68830) 10.30 Come Outside (3427294) 10.45 Teaching Today (214628) 11.15 Clementine (7882259) 11.30 The English Collection (5718) 12.00 See Hear (20248)

12.30pm WORKERS' LUNCH (20317) 1.00 Teaching Today (35336) 1.30 Showcase (3365046) 1.38 School (6859317) 1.40 Holby Patch House (24853688)

2.10 CALL MY BLUFF (7203888)

2.40 BUDGET 96 David Dimbleby introduces live coverage and analysis of Kenneth Clarke's last Budget speech before the general election (1) (2894201)

3.00 SNOOKER Coverage of two third-round matches (28775)

7.30 THE VERDICT: Bill David Rose investigates how lawyers calculate their bills (1) (715)

8.00 UNIVERSITY CHALLENGE King's College London v Keele College, Oxford (1) (2775)



Jilly samples Spanish wines (8.30pm)

8.30 FOOD AND DRINK Michael Barry and guest chef Robert Carter prepare a vegetarian Indian dish, Jilly Goldfinch and Oz Clarke visit the winemakers of Spain's Rioja Valley (1) (4510)

8.40 SNOOKER Live coverage from Preston Guild Hall as the players plot for a place in the quarter-finals (5220)

9.30 WHEN ROVER MET BMW: Building Continuing the series about the marriage of two automobile companies. Employees of both companies meet in an attempt to integrate the English with their new German partners (1) (33818)

10.00 NEVER MIND, THE BLUZZCOCKS Comedy pub quiz chaired by Mark Lamer (83757)

10.30 BUDGET BROADCAST by the Chancellor of the Exchequer (788881)

10.35 NEWSNIGHT (2385372)

11.20 SNOOKER (677607)

11.40 LUCINDA LAMONTON'S ALPHABET OF BRITAIN (1) (2687775)

12.00 THE MIDNIGHT HOUR WITH LESLEY RIDDOCH (59821)

12.30pm THE LEARNING ZONE: Open University — Renew able Energies (23737) 1.30 Resources, Environment and Politics (53707) 2.00 Nightshift TV: Geography (50022) 4.00 BBC Focus: Teaching and Learning with IT (51248) 5.00 Inside Europe (68359) 5.30 Film Education (603950)



Rough Justice: The Vet's Wife

BBC1, 10.15pm (Scotland and Wales) 10.40pm; Northern Ireland 11.15pm

Michael Ware presents another case of alleged judicial miscarriage: this time concerning David Ryan James. Last year James, a vet, was sentenced to 25 years in prison for murdering his wife, Sandra, in the family home. She died from a poisonous mixture of drugs and alcohol laced with *Immobilon*, a drug used to tranquillise large animals. The jury at Stafford Crown Court took six hours to reach its verdict, which was unanimous. The prosecution claimed that James' motive was financial. Three months before his wife's death he had left her, and their three children, to live with his mistress. He killed because he could not afford to keep both women. But Ware's report, which draws on new evidence, suggests that Mrs James took her own life.

Network First: Breaking the Cycle

11.10pm (10.50pm)

With unruly children much in the news, Roger Graef reports on an initiative designed to rid such trouble in the bud. Marlborough House Day Unit in Swindon offers a ten-week course on the National Health Service, the only one of its kind in England and Wales. Providing the time and attention no school can easily give, the unit aims to rid the youngsters of their tantrums in a slow and patient approach that rewards good behaviour and contains the bad. The film dispels the idea that difficult children necessarily come from inadequate homes. One of the least controllable, four-year-old Joe, is the son of a school teacher and an executive husband. Graef, who made his name with an unforgettable study of Thames Valley Police and its brutal way with a rape victim, milks the subject with his usual observational skill. Peter Waymark

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